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Japan

LDP Official Proposes SDF Planes to Gulf

OW2109211590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Hakone, Kanagawa Pref., Sept. 21 KYODO—A senior leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party proposed Friday to send transport planes and supply vessels of Japan's Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to the Middle East for the transportation of Asian refugees and to provide logistic support for the U.S.-led multinational force deployed to the Persian Gulf.

Michio Watanabe, former finance minister who heads the fourth-ranking intraparty faction, said transportation by the SDF abroad is allowed under the current SDF law, citing Article 100 of the law. Article 100 of the SDF law says the SDF can transport state guests and other persons appointed by the prime minister by aircraft when there are requests from state agencies.

Speaking at a seminar of his own faction, Watanabe said that although dispatch of the SDF overseas is limited to logistic support that does not involve the use of armed force, it is natural to use an "experienced group" in the event of crisis.

Watanabe, one of the aspirants to succeed Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, said it will take months to enact a United Nations cooperation law that could pave the way for deploying noncombat SDF personnel abroad and urged Kaifu to make a "political decision" to send SDF personnel to the Middle East. He proposed sending C130H transport planes to carry refugees stranded in Jordan and 8,000-ton class supply ships to transport food and equipment for the multinational force.

The SDF law, enacted in 1954, restricts the dispatch of the SDF overseas and only allows SDF personnel to cooperate with scientific expeditions to the Antarctic and international sports events.

Kaifu proposed enacting a U.N. cooperation law as part of Japan's global peace efforts when he announced a package of measures in late August to assist the multinational force. The government maintains that the Constitution does not allow Japan to send armed personnel of the SDF overseas for the purpose of resorting to force but does not necessarily ban sending them abroad for other purposes.

Commodity Loans to Egypt, Turkey, Jordan

OW2209153090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—The government has decided to provide 300 million dollars in commodity loans to Egypt, 200 million dollars to Turkey, and 100 million dollars to Jordan to help ease their economic plights due to the Persian Gulf crisis, government sources said Saturday.

The government announced on September 14 to extend a total of 600 million dollars in emergency commodity loans to the three nations as part of the second package of Japanese measures to help resolve the crisis.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will formally announce the allocation when he visits five Middle East countries starting October 1, the sources said. The commodity loans, carrying an annual interest rate of 1 percent, are repayable over a 30-year period.

Aside from the emergency aid to the "frontline" Gulf states, the government pledged to double its contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Gulf area to 2 billion dollars. Also, Japan will offer another 1.4 billion dollars to the three states and other countries later in cooperation with international organizations.

Takeshita Urges Law To Send Personnel to Gulf

OW2209032790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 22 KYODO—Japan's former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said here Saturday he will support a government proposal to enact a law enabling the dispatch abroad of noncombat personnel from the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to assist in U.N. peacekeeping activities. Takeshita said Japan should enact the United Nations Peace Cooperation Law to be followed by a revision of the present SDF law which currently bans the sending abroad of SDF personnel.

Takeshita, in a meeting with Japanese reporters traveling with him in Beijing, said the SDF should be allowed to assist in overseas disaster relief. The former prime minister, currently in China on a four-day visit through Sunday to attend the Beijing Asian Games' opening ceremony, is regarded as Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's de facto special envoy.

As head of the largest faction in the country's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Takeshita is one of the most powerful conservative politicians in Japan. He was instrumental in bringing Kaifu to power in June 1989.

Takeshita discussed in the Beijing press meeting chiefly Japan's response to the Persian Gulf crisis. He said Japan needs to improve its crisis management by revising related laws. Takeshita also said one possible scenario was for Japan to dispatch its noncombat SDF personnel overseas to assist in U.N. peacekeeping operations, as envisaged in the proposed U.N. Peace Cooperation Law, while maintaining their SDF status. He proposed that the cabinet convene an extraordinary Diet session in October through the end of December to reach agreement between ruling and opposition parties to enact the legislation.

Takeshita praised as "prompt and appropriate" the 4-billion-dollar assistance package Japan has so far pledged as its contribution to help restore peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, Japan has come under foreign pressure, particularly from the United States, to help assist in multinational efforts to restore peace and stability in the Persian Gulf. Japan has so far pledged to provide 2 billion dollars in financial assistance to the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf, another 2 billion dollars in economic assistance to what are called "frontline countries," especially Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey, and 22 million dollars to refugees fleeing from Iraq and Iraqi- occupied Kuwait. It also vowed to send a 100-member medical team to the Gulf.

But Japan has been unable to send SDF personnel, even from noncombat categories, abroad under its war-renouncing Constitution and the SDF law. The government of Prime Minister Kaifu has instead proposed enacting the U.N. Peace Cooperation Law to send noncombat SDF personnel to assist in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

At the same press briefing, Takeshita also touched on ties between Japan and China. He said the best time for Kaifu to visit China would be the opening ceremony for the Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center in Beijing next May. The international climate surrounding China may have changed by then, Takeshita said. He cited China's promise to suspend arms sales to Iraq and its promotion of the peace process in Cambodia.

The leaders of the world's seven major economic powers agreed at their 1989 Paris summit to freeze economic assistance to China and suspend high-level contacts in protest against China's military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in June that year. At this year's Houston summit, Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu told the leaders of the six other industrialized countries that Japan will unfreeze an 810 billion yen loan package to China.

Takeshita said Western nations would not oppose a visit by Kaifu to China following a two-year suspension of governmental contacts and the efforts China has made during that period.

In addition to Takeshita, Education Minister Kosuke Hori, who is in charge of sports affairs, is currently in China on a separate three-day visit through Sunday to attend the Asian Games opening ceremony. Hori was the first Japanese cabinet member to visit China since the Tiananmen Square bloodbath.

Diet Session on Gulf To Convene 'Mid-October'

OW2209090690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Gifu, Sept. 22 KYODO—Ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa said on Saturday an extraordinary Diet session will be convened in mid-October to mainly debate on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Ozawa, here to attend an LDP meeting, told reporters that the session will be for about a month, indicating it will close before the enthronement of Emperor Akihito scheduled to be held on November 12.

On the controversy over the suggested dispatch of Self-Defense Force (SDF) personnel to the Persian Gulf area, Ozawa asked Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to take strong initiative as he decides on whether or not to send them to the region, saying that the government should make utmost efforts to have the people understand its policy. Japan is barred by its Constitution and the SDF law from sending SDF personnel.

The government has proposed enactment of a United Nations peace cooperation law that would enable Japan to send noncombat SDF personnel, police or firefighters to help assist U.N. peacekeeping activities in the event of an international crisis.

Ozawa also touched upon concern felt in Asian countries over the dispatch of SDF personnel overseas and said Japan's diplomatic policy is to maintain peace in the world in accordance with the U.N. operations. Some Asian nations have posed questions suspecting Japan might aspire to be a military power.

Papers Comment on Iraq's Expulsion From Asiad

OW2209002090 Tokyo KYODO in English 2352 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—Japan's three major newspapers showed mixed reactions to Iraq's expulsion from the Beijing Asian Games, with the ASAHI SHIMBUN describing it as "unavoidable," the MAINICHI "regrettable," and the YOMIURI "quite natural."

The ASAHI said in an editorial that the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)'s decision to bar Iraq from the games and suspend it from the council "could not be helped." While regretting the expulsion of Iraq from the games immediately before their opening for political reasons, the mass circulation daily noted that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 has been strongly condemned by the international community and that the consequently United Nations has launched an economic embargo against Iraq. The paper said that Iraqi's participation in the games might have provoked serious confusion such as a boycott by anti-Iraq countries.

The ASAHI urged Iraq to accept the wishes of Asians, pull its troops out of Kuwait and release foreign nationals detained in Iraq.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN said it was "regrettable" that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait prevented the games from becoming an event with the participation of all OCA member countries. The OCA's overwhelming vote to bar Iraq showed the anger of Asian countries at Iraq's barbaric acts. But the paper said doubts remain over whether the sporting world should have joined the political world in taking similar sanctions against Iraq.

The third major daily, YOMIURI SHIMBUN, said it supports the OCA's decision as quite natural. The YOMIURI renewed its anger over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait which it said prevented the Asian Games from becoming an event of solidarity, friendship, and progress. It urged Iraq to recognize that it is isolated in the international community.

Foreign Ministry Sees Stalemate in Persian Gulf

OW2309082390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 23 KYODO—The Persian Gulf crisis is likely to develop into a prolonged stalemate as the danger of an immediate military conflict between the United States and Iraq has receded, senior officials of the Foreign Ministry predict. They expect the deadlock to continue into next year.

This conclusion, Foreign Ministry sources said, is based on a series of brainstorming sessions among top Foreign Ministry officials on the Persian Gulf crisis, triggered by Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. The Foreign Ministry brain-trust cites two major reasons for its conclusion: United Nations-led efforts to step up international pressure on Iraq and policy coordination between the United States and the Soviet Union for a political settlement of the Gulf crisis. The Foreign Ministry thinks that, even though tension remains high in the Gulf region, the United States is unlikely to unleash an attack on Iraq unless the foreign hostages held there are abused, ministry sources said.

The sources said the Foreign Ministry has ruled out the prospect raised in the U.S. that U.S. troops may launch an all-out attack on strategic points throughout Iraq by mid-October.

The ministry's thinking is said to be based on three main considerations. The first is that the Foreign Ministry thinks the U.S. will not be able to fully deploy 250,000 troops in the Gulf before the end of October. The Foreign Ministry also believes that the U.S. might jeopardize worldwide solidarity against Iraq if it launched a military attack. The sources also pointed out that such U.S. military action would be politically risky, especially if launched before midterm U.S. elections in November.

The U.S. is enjoying unusually strong global backing for its actions in the crisis, including support from most countries in the Arab world, which had harbored strong ill feelings against Americans, the sources said. The Soviet Union is also taking a cooperative attitude, pledging to pull its military advisers out of Iraq, they noted. Meanwhile, Iraq could probably survive U.N. economic sanctions for six months, as it had been stockpiling food before its invasion of Kuwait, the sources said.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn seems to have given up the idea of invading Saudi Arabia, and is increasing the security of Baghdad against attack by holding Americans and other foreigners hostage, the sources said. However they said there is concern that Western solidarity may weaken in the face of the prolonged presence of U.S. troops in the Gulf. Also, complaints are mounting within the U.S. over the huge cost of the operation.

Panel To Discuss Law on Sending SDF Overseas

OW2409081390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0638 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—The proposal to form a group including Self-Defense Force personnel that could be sent overseas to help resolve international disputes will be referred to a special Diet panel, government sources said Monday.

The panel will be formed during an extraordinary Diet session expected to convene in mid-October and will consider proposals to enact what is being referred to as a United Nations Peace Cooperation Law, they said. They said the extraordinary Diet session will likely run until the first week of November, shortly before Emperor Akihito's enthronement on November 12.

The special panel is needed to facilitate discussions on how Japan can respond to international changes and contribute to world security in the post-Cold War order, as well as how such a law would relate to the ban in the Constitution on the use of force to resolve international disputes, the sources said.

They said the issue involved the Foreign, Transport, Health and Welfare, and Home Affairs Ministries, as well as the Defense Agency, and required extensive consultations.

Japan has been under mounting pressure, especially from the United States, for not making any military contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Gulf region following Iraq's August 2 invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Agreement With U.S. on Amorphous Metals Noted

OW2209013290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0039 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Washington, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japan and the United States on Friday announced an agreement on amorphous metal trade under which Japanese utilities firms will buy 32,000 amorphous metal transformers over the next 30 months. During the 30-month period, Tokyo Electric Power Co. and other Japanese utilities will carry out field tests on U.S.-made amorphous metal transformers.

Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto, in a statement released here, welcomed the agreement as the latest example of a bilateral resolve to settle trade disputes through dialogue rather than threats of retaliation.

Allied-Signal Inc., the world's sole producer of amorphous metal alloys which withdrew a section 301 petition last April pending the completion of the Japan-U.S. trade talks, said it will not refile the petition under the U.S. Trade Act. "The successful opening of the Japanese market to this critical technology signals a new atmosphere of cooperation on matters of trade between our two countries," Allied-Signal Chairman Edward Hennessy said.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills hailed the agreement which calls for Japanese utilities to buy electric power transformers on the basis of the transformer's total life cycle levelized annual cost or "lowest lifetime cost."

Amorphous metal-based transformers are said to be more energy-efficient than silicon steel transformers, and Allied-Signal cites a Japanese study that shows such amorphous transformers save 4.3 billion kilowatt hours of electricity worth 1 billion dollars a year.

Japan spurned Allied-Signal's request for an extension of its composition patent on amorphous metal alloy which expires in 1993. But Japanese steel makers and utilities have agreed to honor the U.S. firm's process patent which expires in 1997.

MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] officials said Nippon Steel Corp. and Kawasaki Steel Corp. have also agreed not to produce or sell without a licensing contract from the patentee.

In her statement, Hills carefully avoided any impression of market share allocation, saying, "the announcement does not provide for any market share allocation or for any purchases after the completion of the test period, except on the basis of an analysis of the lowest lifetime cost."

Okinawa Opposes Removal of Naha Port to Awase

OW2209084490 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 21 Sep 90 Evening Edition p 11

[Text] Okinawa—The Okinawa City Assembly (chairman: Takeichi Teruya) held an extraordinary meeting on 21 September, and unanimously adopted a "written opinion regarding the issue of removing the Naha Military Port [NMP], a facility of the U.S. Forces [USF] in Okinawa, to Awase in Okinawa City," and a protest resolution. The written opinion opposes the removal of the same military port to Awase in Okinawa City and demands the unconditional return of the NMP.

The resolution states surprise at and anger toward the announcement that the U.S. authorities selected Awase in Okinawa City as a new site for the NMP, and called on the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Facilities Agency for cooperation. Okinawa City is promoting a plan for east coast resort development designed to establish an industrial park from the standpoint of constructing Nakagusuku Harbor, which is an ongoing prefectural project, and bringing up the commerce and tourist industries. Touching on this development plan, the meeting pointed out: "The people in Okinawa City strongly oppose the plan of removing the facility. We shall never accept the plan to remove the USF's NMP to Awase because it is designed to build up bases on the strength of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and it is the Japan-U.S. joint committee's one- sided intent which completely ignores the project plan of the Okinawan people. While demanding that the issue of removing the facility be immediately withdrawn, we will file a strict protest with the Japnaese Government and U.S. authorities." Moreover, the meeting also pointed out: "Fortification of bases runs counter to the world's trend toward peace and also obstructs construction of a peaceful town in Okinawa City. Also, it may lead to the military use of the Nakagusuku Harbor." Thus, the written opinion demands the unconditional and total return of the NMP. Copies of the written opinion are addressed to the prime minister, foreign minister, and director general of the Defense Agency, the director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, and the chief of the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau. Copies of the protest resolution are addressed to the consul general of the United States in Okinawa, the commander of U.S. Forces in Japan, the area coordinator of the four U.S. Forces in Okinawa, and the base commander of the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa.

Union Criticizes U.S. Base Reduction Plan

OW2309035190 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 23 Sep 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] A branch union of the Federation of All-Okinawa Labor Unions [FAOLU] (chairman: Kiyoshi Tamaki) held its 37th regular convention on 22 September at the Minamitobaru Community Center. The FAOLU adopted "a resolution demanding the security of workers' employment" in regard to a U.S. Department of Defense [USDD] plan to close and unify the Naval Air Facility [NAF] on Kadena Air Base. The plan was announced on 18 September. Copies of the resolution will be addressed to the commander of the Kadena Naval Base, the director general of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, the prefectural governor, and the chief of the Naha Labor Management Office.

The resolution states: "We are discontent with the USDD announcement. The announcement does not clarify employment for the workers, only the closure and reduction plan of the facility, although 110 MLC [mass labor contract] employees work at the Kadena Naval Air Facility." It also demands that 1) a plan be disclosed as soon as possible; and that 2) its possible effects on the workers be clarified, and measures be taken by both the Japanese and the U.S. Governments to secure the employment of workers.

The resolution criticizes the USDD plan, saying: "The Maritime Self-Defense Force is taking over the mission of the P-3C antisubmarine patrol planes that belong to the NAF. Closure of the facility is nothing but a merger with the Air Force, and it does not accompany a return or reduction of the base itself."

Education Minister Leaves for Beijing 21 Sep

OW2109130090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO—Education Minister Kosuke Hori left here for China Friday to attend Saturday's opening ceremony of the Beijing Asian Games.

Hori's China visit comes despite an agreement at the Houston summit of seven major industrialized nations in July to suspend high-ranking government officials' exchanges with China following the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing in June last year.

While in Beijing, Hori will meet Japanese athletes to encourage them, but he has no plans to meet Chinese leaders in consideration of possible criticism by other countries, Japanese officials said.

Hori will return home Sunday.

Returns From Beijing 23 Sep

OW2309090290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 23 KYODO—Education Minister Kosuke Hori returned to Tokyo from Beijing on Sunday after a three-day visit. He attended Saturday's opening ceremony of the Beijing Asian Games.

Hori became the first Japanese cabinet minister to visit China after the seven leading industrialized nations agreed at the 1989 Paris summit to suspend high-ranking contacts with China following the bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing in June last year.

Takeshita Returns 23 Sep From Visit to PRC

OW2309123890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 23 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita returned home Sunday from a four-day visit to China to attend the Beijing Asian Games' opening ceremony Saturday. Takeshita met Chinese Premier Li Peng, President Yang Shangkun, and Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin during the visit.

LDP Proposes Loan to USSR for Oil Production

OW2109231790 Tokyo KYODO in English 2246 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed Friday that Japan provide the Soviet Union with up to 5 billion yen (about 37 million dollars) in loans to help expand oil and natural gas production, Japanese officials said. A 54-member LDP delegation, currently in Moscow on a weeklong visit, filed the proposal during an hourlong meeting with a Soviet Government panel headed by Aleksandr Yakovlev, a member of the Presidential Council, who is known as one of the closest aides to President Mikhail Gorbachev. Yakovlev showed interest in the Japanese proposal and promised to study it, the officials said.

Keizo Obuchi, a former Chief Cabinet Secretary, is acting as leader of the delegation in place of former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe who was originally scheduled to head the mission but canceled because of poor health.

Abe's chief of staff, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, who was one of the delegation members, conveyed a message from him vowing Japan's assistance in Soviet energy development projects as part of its efforts to promote bilateral ties toward Gorbachev's visit to Japan in April 1991, the officials said. Abe, in the message, urged Moscow to respond sincerely to a longstanding Japanese call for the return of four Soviet-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Abe, who served as LDP secretary general until June 1989, is considered one of most powerful conservative politicians as head of the LDP's No. 2 faction.

Yakovlev told the LDP delegation that Gorbachev's Japan visit must not focus on the territorial dispute but should lead to development of overall Soviet-Japanese relations, the officials said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, while visiting Japan in early September, said that Gorbachev will go to Tokyo in mid- April making him the first Kremlin leader ever to do so.

Japan has long called for the return of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets east of Hokkaido, which the Soviet Union seized immediately after World War II.

Earlier in the day, the LDP delegation met with Anatoliy Lukyanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who expressed a desire to learn from Japan about economic affairs.

Sakhalin Mission Home After Receiving Remains

OW2409074090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Niigata, Sept. 24 KYODO—A Government-sponsored mission returned home Monday from the Soviet far east island of Sakhalin, where it received the remains of 23 Japanese soldiers killed in the former Japanese territory in World War II.

The mission returned aboard a flight of the Soviet airline Aeroflot via Khabarovk after a week-long visit to Sakhalin, the first by government mission to collect the remains of war dead there.

The 10-member delegation stayed in Smirnykh in central Sakhalin, where it held a memorial service after receiving the remains from the authorities. [passage omitted]

Hopes Expressed for Kanemaru Trip to DPRK

OW2109212190 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Kaifu said that he hopes the visit to North Korea by a joint parliamentary delegation next week will result in establishing a channel for government-level negotiations and paving a way for better ties between Japan and North Korea. Mr. Kaifu made the comment today at an inaugural meeting for the delegation of representatives from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Japan Socialist Party [JSP].

The inaugural party was attended by Prime Minister Kaifu and JSP Chairperson Doi, as well as the parliamentary members of both parties who will visit North Korea as part of the delegation.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Kanemaru, who will head the LDP's delegation group, gave a speech on the occasion.

[Begin Kanemaru recording] I think the delegation's first task is to break down the substantial barriers that exist between the Republic and Japan and to build up a wide channel there. [end recording]

After Mr. Kanemaru, JSP Vice Chairman Tanabe, who is to head the JSP's group, spoke. Mr. Tanabe said that he wants to make the visit the first step toward a new relationship, based on Japan making a clear apology and doing soul-searching for its past act [of colonizing Korea].

Prime Minister Kaifu also gave a speeech. Speaking about the question of Japanese apologies for its colonial rule, he said that he has apologized during past sessions of parliament, frankly expressing regret about the intolerable sufferings inflicted on the people of Korea. He stressed that he has apologized not only to South Korea but also to North Korea.

Mr. Kaifu further said that the Japanese Government hopes the delegation's visit will help create a channel of dialogue and help improve reltaions between the two countries. He said he hopes the visit of the delegation will open frank communications between the two countries.

He thus showed strong hopes that this delegation's visit will result in opening a channel of government-level negotiations toward an improvement in bilateral ties.

Businessmen Express Hopes

OW2109192190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1252 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept 21 KYODO—Japanese business officials expressed hope Friday that the upcoming visit to North Korea by a high-powered Japanese politicians' group will warm up bilateral political ties to pave the way for normalizing economic relations as well.

Despite the country's political uncertainty, North Korea is economically the only "virgin soil" left in Asia, said the officials, who wished to remain anonymous.

If the political climate warms up and the long-stalled issue of war compensation shows any progress, the problem of cumulative trade debt owed by Pyongyang to Japan might also move toward a solution and this could bring new business opportunities between the two countries, the business people said.

Shin Kanemaru, former deputy prime minister, is scheduled to lead a delegation consisting of members of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to Pyongyang from September 24 to 28, which will be joined by a mission of the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP).

The overall trade debt owed by North Korea has reached 70 billion yen, including interest, and payment has completely stopped for the last five years.

Requests for negotiations by a group of Japanese creditors, including both banks and trading firms, have not yet brought a response, though they were raised in the fall of 1987. Most of the creditors have their claims covered by trade insurance run by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). But the ministry in 1975 eliminated North Korea from the list of countries covered by such insurance due to the number of cases of uncollectible debts.

Most members of the Japanese business world consider that substantial business exchange cannot be expected unless the debt problem is solved.

According to business sources, the scheduled Japanese delegation to Pyongyang will first reconfirm that the final due date for the accumulated debt was the end of last year as was set in the most recent agreement.

They will then discuss new arrangements after agreeing to postpone the deadline, the sources said. The problem of reptariations for Japanese wartime action will be the key to the debt negotiations, they said.

The president of a trading firm said that the compensation problem should be taken up by the two governments in the context of normalizing bilateral diplomatic relations.

Pyongyang, however, apparently hopes to offset the debt with compensation money, he said. Pyongyang is now concerned about its flagging economy, while relations with the Soviet Union, its chief economic supporter, have cooled, he added. North Korea thus will not likely negotiate the debt problem separately from the compensation issue, he said.

An executive at another trading firm said optimistically that the Japanese Government would probably agree to an offsetting arrangement, as most of the outstanding trade debt is covered by MITI's trade insurance. But other business people expect the issue will take a considerably long time to resolve.

Meanwhile, other sources said North Korea is not interested in setting up a trade office in Tokyo because there is already a trading firm operated as a virtual trade office by North Korean descendants living in Japan.

The Japanese delegation nevertheless intends to push the idea of opening a trade office on the occasion of the visit, the sources said.

Kanemaru Leaves for DPRK With Kaifu Apology

OW2409055290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0500 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 KYODO—Former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru left for Pyongyang, North Korea, on Monday afternoon at the head of a joint mission of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP) that will seek to break the postwar impasse between the two nations.

Before departure, Kanemaru told a group of LDP and JSP politicians gathered at Haneda Airport that he is determined to bring results from the five-day visit to North Korea. It is the first visit by an LDP delegation to North Korea, with which Japan has no diplomatic relations and has maintained contact through the JSP.

JSP Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe, who heads his party's delegation, pledged to cooperate with the LDP in tearing down the door which has stood in the way to improved relations between Japan and North Korea.

Kanemaru will deliver a letter from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in his capacity as the LDP president apologizing for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula to North Korean leader Kim Il-song. Kaifu is offering the apology as the LDP leader, because the mission is regarded as an interparty contact that could lead to eventual governmental-level talks.

Kanemaru and Tanabe will seek the release and return of two Japanese seamen detained in North Korea since 1983.

The LDP-JSP mission is flying direct from Tokyo to Pyongyang, instead of going via Beijing, the usual route for travelers from Japan.

A total of 36 Japanese journalists are covering the visit, after North Korea eased its restrictions on foreign media coverage, via a total of 11 communication links especially set up for the occasion.

Carries Letter of Apology

OW2109230390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will express deep remorse and apology for Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula in a letter to be sent shortly to North Korean President Kim Il-song, informed sources said Friday.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, who will head a mission from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] for a five-day visit to North Korea from Monday, will carry the letter. The letter will be signed by Kaifu in his role as president of the LDP and addressed to General Secretary Kim Il-song of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, the sources said.

Kaifu says in the letter, "I would like to express deep remorse and an apology to the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for intolerable pain and serious damage caused by Japan's past acts," according to the sources. The prime minister says such an event should never be repeated and expresses his intention to do his best to improve relations with North Korea.

In an expected meeting with Kim, Kanemaru would also apologize for the sufferings caused to the people of North Korea and deliver Kaifu's letter, the sources said. Kaifu on Friday urged the delegations to North Korea made up of members of the LDP and the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) to make a "breakthrough" in dialogue with Pyongyang.

Kaifu noted that past cabinets have also expressed "apology, reflecting honest remorse, for giving unbearable agonies" to Koreans who suffered under Japan's colonial rule. But intergovernmental negotiations for better bilateral relations have been blocked by a "thick wall," Kaifu said.

"It is indispensable to have a channel for intergovernmental dialogue. Please make a breakthrough to begin a frank dialogue," Kaifu told the delegation members. "The government also hopes to do that," he said.

Kanemaru expressed his intention to break the "thick wall," and referred to his hope of realizing the release of two Japanese seamen detained in North Korea since 1983 on espionage charges. He stressed the importance of an apology to North Korea for the past Japanese colonial rule, saying the time has come to clear the issue, which has also been tackled by cabinets in the past.

LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and JSP Chairwoman Takako Doi were also present at the gathering.

Doi urged the government to build fresh, trustworthy ties with Pyongyang by clarifying the past. "This mission to North Korea reflects the enthusiasm of the Japanese people to establish morality on this issue. We cannot rewrite history," she said.

The LDP delegation will be Japan's highest-ever party-level mission to North Korea with which Japan has no diplomatic ties.

The JSP group is headed by party Vice Chairman Makoto Tanabe.

Aspirations for UN Security Council Seat Viewed

OW2109230590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1507 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japan still has its eyes set on a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, a Foreign Ministry official indicated Friday. "This is a very old and new issue and its been in the mind of many, many people for many years," said Yukio Takasu, director of the ministry's United Nations policy division.

Takasu, speaking to reporters in advance of Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's departure Saturday for U.N. headquarters in New York, noted that in the future economic and technological power may yet prove more influential than military power. "So in the future it may be important to include those countries like Japan to the real inner cabinet of the United Nations," he said.

Takasu said that while the Japanese Government has not taken an official stand on the controversial issue, "that's not to say that there's no discussion going on informally" among leading government officials. "But it's not yet reached to that kind of maturity that we can speak openly," he said, adding that Japan still has to take "many factors" into account.

The prime obstacle, Takasu said, is the sheer immensity of the task of amending the U.N. charter. He noted that it would require not only the assent of the five countries currently holding permanent seats on the Council—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain, and France—but also a vote in favor by two-thirds of the entire U.N. body.

Takasu also pointed out that the Japanese are not the only ones looking for a permanent seat on the Council. He noted that last year, then Brazilian Prime Minister Jose Sarney urged a reorganization of the Council in an address he made before the U.N. General Assembly.

Takasu was speaking in the wake of remarks made by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti last Monday that the Security Council should be overhauled to make way for Japan and the European Community, which he suggested could take over the two seats currently occupied by Britain and France. But one Foreign Ministry official speculated that the Italian premier's remarks were most likely aimed more at deterring the entry into the Security Council of a united Germany than feelings of particular good will toward Japan.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Giani de Michelis has said he will propose to the U.N. General Assembly next week that the U.N. charter be amended by dropping the so-called "enemy clauses" which identify Italy, Germany, and Japan as the defeated powers of World War II. "We really hope that this will be realized as early as possible," said Takasu, adding that Japanese national sentiment is opposed to the continued existence of the offending clauses.

"But at the same time it's not like a small child demanding a new toy," the official said. "Its one thing to want a new toy, but another thing for that to happen," he said.

Changing the U.N. charter in this regard would also entail a two-thirds vote in the General Assembly and the assent of the five permanent Security Council members. "We should focus on a bilateral approach very much well in advance before we can say publicly (that the charter should be changed," Takasu said. [single parenthesis as received] "I can't disclose what kind of diplomatic initiative we are taking, but certainly we are doing what we can," he said.

Foreign Minister Departs for UN Session

OW2209043690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 22 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left Tokyo on Saturday for the United Nations General Assembly session in New York. While in New York through October 2, Nakayama will address the General Assembly session, meet separately with foreign ministers of some 20 countries, and attend a series of meetings with representatives of regional groups.

In a meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz around next Tuesday, Nakayama will call for an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and for the unconditional release of foreign nationals detained in Iraq, Foreign Ministry officials said.

He will be present at a summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and U.S. President George Bush, expected around next Saturday in New York.

Kaifu will leave Tokyo around next Friday for a U.N.-sponsored session of world leaders on children's welfare and human rights. He will later go on a five-nation tour of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Turkey.

Hashimoto on Meeting With Brady, Debtor Nations

OW2109233090 Tokyo KYODO in English 2239 GMT 21 Sep 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japan favors allocating "new money" to debtor countries rather than forgiving their debts, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said here Friday. Hashimoto told U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady that Japan, unlike the United States, will not forgive its share of Egypt's official debts, a senior Japanese Finance Ministry official said. To show American gratitude for Egypt's support for the multinational effort against Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, the U.S. has announced plans to forgive 7 billion dollars in military sales that Cairo has owed the U.S.

Emerging from the meeting with Brady, Hashimoto told reporters, "it seems the financial contributions are limited to three countries"—Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan. Japan has pledged 2 billion dollars in financial support for the three countries hard hit by the United Nations-approved sanctions against Iraq.

Brady hailed Japan's contributions to the "frontline" states and other countries affected by the Gulf crisis, the Japanese official said. The senior Finance Ministry official said Hashimoto and Brady produced a Japan-U.S. agreement to coordinate Gulf aid strategy through sub-cabinet-level dialogue.

Financial aid to the frontline countries will be a key topic for discussion during a meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) finance ministers and central bank governors at Blair House here on Saturday.

Hashimoto, however, expressed reservations about President George Bush's Latin American initiatives, telling Brady that Japan will watch closely how the U.S. and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will work out details. The Bush initiatives cover trade, investment, and debt, but the U.S., Japan, and Western Europe differ over ways to help Latin American debtor countries ride out their economic problems.

Brady specifically urged Japan to join the U.S. in the foreign investment campaign for the Latin American region, said the Japanese official traveling with Hashimoto. The U.S. plan calls for the U.S., Japan, and Western Europe to finance 100 million dollars each annually over a five-year period as part of the Latin American investment promotion scheme.

"Official debt forgiveness is helpful but what the debtor countries are really asking for is new money (new funds)," the senior Japanese official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Japan is the only country which is extending official new money to debtor countries," he added.

Hashimoto separately met IDB President Enrique Iglesias and other IDB officials to discuss the promotion of relations between Japan and the Latin American region.

Finance Minister Meets Philippine Counterpart

OW2209050290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Washington, Sept. 21 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto urged the Philippines to steadily implement measures to cut its deficit and rebuild its economy when he met Philippine counterpart Jesus Estanislao here Friday afternoon, Japanese officials said.

Hashimoto was responding to Estanislao's request for Japan's cooperation in the Philippine Government's second debt-cutting program under the debt settlement package advocated by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady. But the Japanese officials said Hashimoto told the Philippine minister that Manila's reduction of its deficit and economic reconstruction should come first. The Japanese and Philippine finance ministers are here to attend a series of meeting among world financial leaders.

Earlier in the day, Hashimoto met with Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), who disclosed that China and South Korea will attend as observers an IDB general meeting scheduled to be held in the central Japanese city of Nagoya next spring, the Japanese officials said.

The IDB president told Hashimoto that the Nagoya meeting will provide a good opportunity for exchanges between Latin American and Asian countries, they said. The Japanese minister said he looks forward to the IDB meeting in Nagoya, they added.

Trade Minister Calls for Diet Debate on Rice

OW2109201990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sep 21 (KYODO)—Japan's trade minister Friday called for Diet debate on whether to review a resolution by lawmakers supporting the nation's ban on rice imports. "I'd be grateful to see discussions in the Diet over whether to stick to the resolution as a golden rule or to think of other possibilities," said Kabun Muto, head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Amid strong pressure from farmers with political clout, the Diet endorsed the resolution, backed by all major parties, in September 1988.

"The government can't take any action nor speak (of the rice import ban) because of the Diet resolution," Muto told an upper house committee on commerce and industry.

Referring to ongoing multilateral trade talks involving agriculture, Muto said Japan will be forced to make other major concessions on agricultural trade if it maintains its rice policy. The trade negotiations, known as the Uruguay Round, are being sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) with the aim of working out new trade rules on agriculture and 14 other sectors. The four-year trade talks are to be concluded by December this year.

Japan has insisted on maintaining its ban on rice imports to secure self-sufficiency in its staple food. Rice imports are virtually banned, except for limited quantities for use in processed foods.

In a related development, U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo Michael Armacost called on Japan to open its rice market to ensure a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round, officials said. The trade talks are at a crucial stage and Japan, as a major trading nation, should do its utmost to make them successful, Armacost was quoted as telling Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Tomio Yamamoto.

Armacost also pressed Japan to present a meaningful report on its protective measures for farmers next month, which is required for negotiations on agricultural trade, the officials said.

Similar reports from 105 nations involved in the Uruguay Round will be submitted to a group of farm trade negotiators in Geneva next month in a step toward cutting domestic farm protection and export subsidies.

Yamamoto stopped short of making a clear response, saying, "we're making efforts to draft a report as perfect as possible in spite of technical problems," the officials said.

Agriculture is the thorniest issue in the Uruguay Round, with the United States and the European Community wide apart on how and by how much to reduce export subsidies.

Bank Governor Rules Out Discount Rate Increase

OW2209021090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0132 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] New York, Sept. 21 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno on Friday ruled out the possibility of Japan's another official discount rate hike for the time being. Mieno said the central bank is closely monitoring the effects of the latest hike in the basic rate in late August.

Mieno acknowledged the surge in oil prices in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis is triggering interest rates hikes in the Japanese money market, but said the BOJ has no intention of raising the rate in the immediate future. He made the statement following a speech at the Japan Society in New York. Mieno was on his way to Washington to attend a series of international monetary conferences.

The Japanese central bank raised its rate by 0.75 percentage point to 6.0 percent on August 30, the fifth such hike since May last year.

Touching on how the rise in Japanese interest rates will affect a fund flow from Japan into the United States, Mieno said a narrower gap in interest rates between the two countries would bring no big change in the fund inflow. Though the gap in interest rates has been narrowing, the U.S. market is strong and retains its fluidity, continuing to attract Japanese investors, Mieno said.

The BOJ chief discounted talk of a major reorganization of the Japanese banking industry, saying the number of Japanese banks is not large when compared with U.S. banks. He predicted there would be no drastic reorganization, but added that even if it occurred, it would be conducted smoothly.

In his speech to the Japan Society, Mieno affirmed the need for close economic policy coordination among industrialized nations, especially between Japan and the United States, because the world's economies are becoming interdependent. While warning against naive optimism over future economic developments, he stressed the importance of two policies—a commitment to arresting inflation on the macroeconomic front and market-oriented reforms on the microeconomic front.

Turning to the problem of rising oil prices following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, the BOJ head said the increases "could have dire consequences for stability and growth of the world economy." But Mieno said, "I am by no means pessimistic about the resilience of the world economy."

He also said, "The 1990s have begun with two underlying forces at work: Expansion of market economies and interdependence of national economies." Mieno acknowledged "a particular group of economies are more closely linked within the group than vis-a-vis other countries," citing as examples the 1992 market integration of the European Community (EC) and the U.S.-Canada free trade agreement. "Among Asian and Pacific countries, too, there is a movement toward enhancing regional economic cooperation," Mieno said.

He said, "I consider these developments to be part of a process of geographical expansion of market economies, rather than heralding closed regional blocs."

Former Upper House President Tokunaga Dies

OW2309024690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0150 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 23 KYODO—Former House of Councillors President Masatoshi Tokunaga died Sunday of a respiratory ailment in Tokyo, doctors said. He was 77. First elected to the upper house in 1969, he served five consecutive terms in the second chamber. He retired from politics last year. He was appointed transport minister in November 1973 in the second Tanaka cabinet and was elected unanimously as president of the upper house in 1980, serving in the post until 1983. A politician noted for his consensus politics, Tokunaga was the only the upper house president elected to the post without dissent from the opposition.

A native of Yamaguchi Prefecture, he joined the Japanese marines at the age of 15 and was enrolled in the Navy Signals School. He was a navy lieutenant at the time of Japan's surrender in World War II. Tokunaga played a key role in organizing the postwar veterans' group, the Japanese association for the bereaved families of the war dead. He became its first secretary-general. It was the backing of the veterans' group, a powerful lobby group closely associated with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, that sent Tokunaga to the upper house in 1969 when he ran on the now- abolished national constituency ticket. (Endall) 230150 Co am132309.003 ym 23/0247z sep

North Korea

Statement on UN Membership Dispute Issued

SK2109154790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—The spokesman for the North side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks issued a statement today regarding the fact that the South Korean authorities are these days making hasty attempts for South Korea's "unilateral entry" into the United Nations.

The statement says:

According to a report, the South Korean "foreign minister," talking about the question of U.N. membership on September 19, said that if the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council do not exercise a veto in the future, "we would promote without delay our unilateral admission to the U.N." Earlier, on September 18, the South Korean ambassador to the U.N. [as received] said South Korea "might apply for membership within this year."

High-level talks led by premiers, the first of its kind in the history of division, is currently under way between the North and the South of Korea and a contact of delegates of the North and the South is going on in Panmunjom over the question of entering the United Nations as one member, as had been agreed upon at the first North-South High-Level Talks. At this juncture, the South Korean authorities are in a hurry to realize their "unilateral U.N. membership" behind the scene of dialogue. This shows that they are not interested at all in the reunification dialogue but are entirely engrossed in the schemings for "unilateral admission" to the U.N. aimed at creating "two Koreas.

Considering that this behavior of the South Korean authorities is a wrong one of breaking faith with the dialogue partner, throwing a wet blanket over the hardwon North-South High-Level Talks and North-South contact of delegates and disappointing all the fellow countrymen who hope the dialogue will bear a fine fruit, we express deep apprehensions and regret at it.

As we have stressed time and again, "simultaneous entry" or "unilateral entry" of the North and the South of Korea into the United Nations in the state of division means legitimizing "two Koreas" internationally and it will only lay grave obstacles in the way of national reunification. Korea must join the United Nations as one state after its reunification. If it is to join the U.N. before its reunification, the North and the South must not hold two separate seats but jointly enter it as one member.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities are now coming out with the strange argument that "recognition of the entity" and separate admission of the North and the South to the U.N. would be helpful to peace and reunification of the country.

This is nothing but a sophism to justify South Korea's "unilateral U.N. membership" and the creation of "two Koreas."

What they call "recognition of the entity" is entirely contradictory to the desire of the Korean nation for a reunified Korea as it is aimed at having "two Koreas" "legitimised."

It is clear to everyone that the on-going North-South High-Level Talks are not a dialogue of ghost images. Then, what kind of "recognition of the entity" is needed?

The point at issue is not "recognition of the entity." Our urgent task is to make the North and the South of the divided country realise great unity as one nation, transcending the differences in ideology and social system.

If the North and the South join the U.N. while the country remains divided, peace on the Korean peninsula cannot be expected, either.

Since the North and the South stand in acute confrontation and the danger of war is permanently hanging over the Korean peninsula, separate entry of the North and the South into the U.N. would extend confrontation to the international arena, which would inevitably worsen the North-South relations.

When it is certain that simultaneous or separate entry into the United Nations will legitimize "two Koreas" in the international arena and aggravate the confrontation between the North and the South, the South Korean authorities are contending that South Korea's entry into the U.N. is "an issue independent of North-South relations". This is a preposterous and unreasonable allegation.

Is it not that the South Korean authorities proposed the simultaneous entry and, in August 1987, proposed to our side to discuss the issue of entering into the U.N. at the North-South dialogue because they admitted that the issue is related to the North-South relations?

And at the recent North-South High-Level Talks, they agreed to discuss at the contact of delegates the matter of entry of the North and the South into the U.N. with a single seat, because they considered it to be a problem of relations between the North and the South.

Nevertheless, they are now contending that the "North-South relations and admission into the U.N." are different matters. This is, indeed, self-contradictory.

Our proposal to share one seat at the U.N. is not "contrary" to the UN Charter, as the South Korean authorities said, but entirely confirms to it. And it is not "unrealistic" but fully feasible.

The U.N. Charter specifies the general principles of U.N. membership but it does not specify the detailed principles of U.N. membership of divided nation.

Therefore, our proposal has nothing contrary to the U.N. Charter. If the North and the South enter the U.N. separately, stand in confrontation with each other even there and further aggravate the mutual relations, it will result in impeding the preservation of peace and security on the Korean peninsula and imposing a burden on the U.N.

We hold that the South Korean authorities, before it is too late, must give up their wrong plan to unilaterally join the U.N., take a sincere stand for reunification and dialogue and show an earnest attitude towards the North-South High-Level Talks for the settlement of the issues of detente on the Korean peninsula and its reunification and the North-South contact of delegates for single U.N. membership.

N-S Officials To Set Date for Next Meeting

SK2209102890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Panmunjom September 22 (KCNA)—Contact of the chief liaison officials of the two sides took place at the Tongil House in the portion of our side of Panmunjom today to designate the date of the second contact of delegates to North-South High-Level Talks for the discussion of the entry into the United Nations by the North and the South with one seat.

The chief liaison official of our side, giving a news briefing after the contact, said that the two sides agreed in principle to have the second contact of delegates to discuss the question of sharing the same seat in the United Nations by the North and the South.

Our side proposed to have the contact on September 26, but the South side proposed to have it after the autumn festival, considering various circumstances.

It was decided that the chief liaison officials of the two sides should meet again at the "House of Peace" in the South side's area of Panmunjom on September 25 in order to discuss the date of the second contact of delegates and choose the date there.

Moves for Separate UN Entry Denounced

SK2109134590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Statement by the spokesman to the North-South High-Level Talks issued in Pyongyang on 21 September—read by announcer]

[Text] The South Korean authorities have recently been hastily moving to realize South Korea's separate entry into the United Nations.

According to a report, on 19 September, the South Korean foreign minister made remarks in connection with the issue of entry into the United Nations, stating that if standing member nations of the Security Council do not exercise a veto, South Korea will promptly push ahead with separate entry into the United Nations. Prior to this, on 18 September, the South Korean envoy to the United Nations said that the request for entry may be forwarded within the year.

At present, high-level talks headed by the premiers are being held between the North and the South for the first time in the history of division and a contact between the delegates of the North and the South is being held at Panmunjom in connection with the issue of entry into the United Nations with a single seat.

At this very time, the South Korean authorities are hastily moving to realize the separate entry into the United Nations behind the stage of dialogue. This shows that they are not interested in dialogue for reunification but are engrossed in separate entry into the United Nations for the fabrication of two Koreas.

We recognize that such an act by the South Korean authorities is an erroneous act that discards faithfulness to the partner of dialogue, pouring cold water over the North-South High-Level Talks and the contacts between the North and the South, which have been realized after a long time, and and act that brings disappointment to all fellow countrymen who are hoping for good results from the dialogue. We express deep concern and regret for their act.

As we repeatedly emphasized, simultaneous entry or separate entry of the North and the South into the United Nations in the state of division means internationally legalizing two Koreas and will only lay grave obstacles to national reunification.

For over 40 years since the nation was divided, neither the North nor the South has entered the United Nations. At a time when the North the South are looking toward reunification in the nineties and in particular, when the two sides are holding high-level talks for the first time, the attempt to enter the United Nations and to legalize the nation's division is an open challenge to our people's cause for reunification.

If our country is to enter the United Nations, it should enter as a single state after reunification is achieved. If it is to enter the United Nations before reunification, the North and the South should jointly enter with a single seat instead of separately entering with two seats. This corresponds to our people's aspiration for reunification and will contribute to expediting national unity and national reunification. This is also in accordance with the ideal and mission of the United Nations for ensuring peace and security.

In spite of this, the South Korean authorities put forward a strange allegation that one should recognize the so-called other's existence and that only when the two sides enter the United Nations separately, can they benefit peace and the reunification of the nation.

This is merely a sophistry designed to justify the separate entry into the United Nations and two-Koreas plot. The so-called recognition of existence is aimed at legalizing two Koreas and totally runs counter to our people's aspiration for a single reunified Korea.

Furthermore, it is clear that the high-level talks that we are holding today are not dialogue for something imaginary [hosang]. Why on earth is recognition of existence necessary? What constitutes an issue at present for us is not the recognition of existence. The urgent mission is to realize the great unity as a single nation transcending the differences in ideologies and systems between the North and the South.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities recently put forward a theory on recognition of existence. This is clearly designed to perpetuate and legalize the present state of division.

If the North and the South enter the United Nations under the state of division, peace on the Korean peninsula cannot be expected. If the North and the South enter the United Nations separately under the circumstances in which the North and the South are in an acute confrontation with each other and the danger of war constantly remains on the Korean peninsula, their confrontation will be extended and expanded into the international arena. Furthermore, this will certainly result in aggravating the North-South relations.

It is clear that simultaneous and separate entry into the United Nations will internationally legalize two Koreas and deepen the North-South confrontation. The allegation of the South Korean authorities that the issue of South Korea's entry into the United Nations is different from the North-South relations is unreasonable and preposterous.

Because the South Korean authorities admitted that the issue of entry into the United Nations is linked to the North-South relations, they put forward the issue of simultaneous entry. In August 1987, they proposed to our side that the issue of entry into the United Nations be discussed in the North-South dialogue.

An agreement was reached during the recent North-South High-Level Talks on discussing the issue of entry of the North and the South into the United Nations with a single seat, during a contact between the delegates of the two sides. This agreement proceeded from the position of the South Korean authorities to regard the issue of entry into the United Nations as one of North-South relations.

In spite of this, the South Korean authorities today claim that the North-South relations are different from the issue of entry into the United Nations. They are surely contradicting themselves.

Our proposal for entry into the United Nations with a single seat does not run counter to the UN Charter, but totally corresponds to it. It is not an unrealistic proposal, but is one that can certainly be realized.

The UN Charter only gives the general principles for entry into the United Nations. It has no specific definition of the principle on entry of divided countries.

Therefore, our proposal at no time runs counter to the UN Charter. If the North and the South enter separately into the United Nations, and confront each other even in the international arena, North-South relations will be further aggravated, peace and security on the Korean peninsula will be disturbed, and burdens will be given to the United Nations.

If the North and the South agree to enter the United Nations with a single seat, not only the United Nations but also all peaceloving countries of the world will clearly welcome this. Therefore, its realization is entirely dependent upon the efforts of the North and the South, and in particular, upon the attitude of the South Korean authorities. Thus, there is no reason it cannot be realized.

That the South Korean authorities are attempting to realize the separate entry into the United Nations by putting forward various unjust excuses is inconsistent with their remarks about reunification and dialogue.

We maintain that the South Korean authorities should discard, right now, their erroneous idea to separately enter the United Nations, returning to a genuine position for reunification and dialogue, and should show a sincere attitude toward the North-South High-Level Talks designed to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and resolve the reunification issue. A sincere attitude toward the contact between delegates from the North and the South for entry into the United Nations with a single seat is also necessary.

With all fellow countrymen who wish the settlement of the issue of entry into the United Nations in the interest of peace and reunification of the nation, we will closely watch the attitude of the South Korean authorities in the future.

21 September 1990, Pyongyang

Reunification Discussed, ROK's Plan Denounced

SK2109122190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0012 GMT 11 Sep 90

[NODONG SINMUN 11 September special article: "The Antinational and Splittist Nature of the Korean National Community Unification Formula"]

[Text] Of late, the South Korean puppets are scheming to freeze the present state of division of our country by advocating a system-oriented reunification theory. Not long ago, the puppet traitor himself clamored as if the time was nearing when the puppets' so-called Korean national community unification formula, the basic content of which is a system-oriented reunification, could be achieved. This is nothing but a very detrimental act running counter to the general trend toward reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Regarding the national reunification question as an issue of establishing one social system throughout the nation, establishing complicated stages, and, thus, regarding national reunification as a vague concept of the distant future is unrealistic. This is, in fact, an act against reunification and the ardent desire of the nation.

The so-called Korean national community unification formula that the South Korean puppets are talking about is, in a nutshell, an antinational and antireunification plan to delay the settlement of the reunification question of our country for an indefinite period, to freeze the present state of division, and, thus, to legitimize the existence of two Koreas. This is because the content of the puppet traitor's so-called unification formula itself contains the precondition of freezing the division into two Koreas.

As is known to the world, the puppet traitor-advanced, so-called Korean national community unification formula includes the establishment of the transitional and intermediate stage of restoring and developing a national community and of realizing an alliance [yonhap] between the North and the South and the establishment of the final stage of founding a democratic republic, a single state, by holding general elections under a unified constitution. The transitional and intermediate stage calls for establishing a combined organization of a North-South summit and a North-South ministers conference, conducting exchanges and cooperation between the North and the South, and creating a unified constitution in the North-South council, organized with national assemblymen of the North and the South. In the Korean national community unification formula, the North and the South also establish a joint office for business, including the support of state affairs adopted at and the implementation of agreements reached at the ministers conference and the council, and the exchange of permanent liaison missions in Seoul and Pyongyang.

The reunification question of the country is, by nature, not an issue of unifying the two social systems to resolve the class and institutional contradictions, but an issue of dispelling distrust and confrontation and achieving unity within the nation. However, the puppets regard the reunification question of the country as as issue of establishing a unified social system throughout the nation and set complicated stages. This is designed to freeze and institutionalize the status quo of the North and the South, to turn North-South relations into official inter-state relations, to conduct trade and exchange, and to live just like aliens.

Of course, the country's reunification can be achieved at once or in a gradual way. In any case, the country's reunification should be one for national unity and reunification [as heard]. In other words, it should not be a union to legitimize the existence of two states, but should be a reunification to eliminate the political and physical barrier between the North and the South, to promote unity and collaboration between them, and to achieve reunion as one nation. This notwithstanding, how can we regard the puppets' transitional and intermediate stage, which means only the perpetuation of the present status quo and division as a perfect way of achieving reunification?

Another aspect of the antinational and splittist nature of the puppet traitor's so-called Korean national community unification formula is that it does not take into consideration the specific reality of our country at all, while regarding the reunification question of the country as a vague concept of the distant future. In the North and the South of our country today, there exist different ideologies and systems, which have been fixed and consolidated throughout the years. Neither side is going to give up its own system.

The socialist system established in the northern half of the republic was chosen by our people themselves and has also been strengthened and developed by them. It is a most solid social system of our own kind, the superiority and vitality of which have been clearly proven.

All of the people in the northern half of the republic have come to know in their hearts through experiences that our kind of social system, in which the chuche idea has been embodied, is incomparably superior to the social system in which the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and they are filled with the burning determination to further glorify the system and to defend it to the end.

In South Korea, the military dictatorial forces, which have seized power, are desperately trying to maintain their antipopular social system under the patronage of the U.S. imperialists. Under this situation, the only way of resolving the reunification question of the country in a peaceful way and at the earliest possible date is to observe the impartial principle of neither side conquering the other or being conquered, and of neither side overpowering the other or being overpowered.

If one side attempts to work out a unified constitution under a unified system or to establish a unified state based on a unified system, which envisages doing away with one system out of the two different systems existing in the North and the South, as advocated in the puppets' formula, this is totally infeasible unless one side conquers the other side or is conqured by it. In view of today's complicated relations between the North and the South, it is a ridiculous daydream to consider working out a unified constitution of a unified system and to hold general elections under it. This will only bear permanent division, acute North-South confrontation, and dispute within the same nation, not national unity and reunification.

Thus, the puppets do not see the existence of the two different systems in our country and go so far as to turn down the nation's ardent desire for reunification. The entire nation is now unanimously rising up in the nationwide struggle to put an end to the tragedy of national division and to achieve the reunification of the country. This is proven by the fact that the spirit of reunification is becoming stronger than ever before among the people in South Korea where the antireunification forces' suppression continues. The reunification movement in South Korea has been developed into a movement of not the minority but the majority and into a massive movement in which the people from all walks of life participate. This reunification movement is advancing in the direction of achieving reunification under a confederal system.

The nationwide reunification movement, which has been vigorously carried out in the North, in the South, and overseas has become the trend of the times, which cannot be blocked by anything, and this shows that the reunification of our country is not a task of the distant future but an ardent task that awaits an early resolution. Regarding the reunification question, which has arisen as a task of reality, as a task to be completed in the distant future and establishing complicated stages is not only an act that rejects reunification itself, but is also a criminal act that throws a wet blanket over our nation's desire for reunification.

The puppet traitor's Korean national community unification formula has an antinational and splittist nature also because it does not accord with the three principles for national reunification, the bedrock for the settlement of the reunification question. The three principles for national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity are the joint reunification program of the nation, which were agreed upon and jointly declared by the North and the South at home and abroad. Therefore, the reunification question must be resolved on these principles without fail.

But, the reunification formula of the persons in authority of South Korea totally contradicts the three principles for national reunification. First of all, the puppets did not mention the question of withdrawal of U.S. forces, the root cause of division and the primary obstacle to reunification. As long as the U.S. imperialist aggression forces stay in South Korea and as long as the U.S. policy of interference continues, the reunification question of the country cannot be solved in conformity with the independent will and demands of the Korean people and our nation's desire for reunification will be trampled underfoot by the aggressors. This is clear to everyone. Therefore, everyone who wants reunification should advocate the withdrawal of U.S. troops first.

The puppets also did not mention the question of the renouncement of their anticommunist policy for confrontation and the question of the abolition of the National Security Law, the antireunification law, which runs counter to great national unity. The South Korean puppets have adopted anticommunism as their national policy. They regard the fellow countrymen with hostility, wielding the notorious National Security Law, and they are brutally suppressing patriotic youths, students, and people from all walks of life who are advancing along the road of reunification through collaboration with communism and with North Korea.

The puppets have arrested and imprisoned student Yim Su-kyong, Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, and their party, the envoys of reunification, who returned to South Korea after visiting the northern half of the republic last year. They have also brutally arrested, imprisoned, and punished those people who advocate contact and dialogue with the North and who want to introduce our reality as it is or to know it.

How can national community and alliance between the North and the South be achieved and exchange and cooperation between them be realized, leaving as is the National Security Law, the law which has regarded with hostility the northern half of the republic as an antistate organization and the people in the North as members of an antistate organization and which brutally punishes those who make contact with us?

However the South Korean puppets may clamor about community, alliance, reunification, and the like, while disregarding the principled matters in solving the reunification question of the country, it is nothing but empty talk. With this unrealistic, unfeasible, and deceptive formula the puppets are clamoring as if they were interested in national unity and reunification and as if they had put forward an epochal proposal for reunification. This is a crafty ruse designed to block the influence of our realistic and reasonable proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo at home and abroad, to disguise themselves as advocates of reunification, and, thus, to avoid being isolated from the people.

The South Korean puppets should immediately stop the act of flouting the fellow countrymen with the question of national reunification on which the destiny of the nation hinges. If the puppets sincerely have the will to reunify the country in conformity with the common will and interests of the nation, they should advance along the road of reunification under a confederal system, withdraw the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, renounce the anticommunist policy for confrontation, and stop the suppression of those who visited the North and other patriotic personages.

USSR Supports Easing N-S Confrontation

SK2309083490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The Soviet Union invariably supports the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to put an end to the presence of the foreign forces in Korea, cut the armed forces of the North and the South and ease the military and political confrontation, declared Vladimir Petrovskiy, vice-minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, in his answer to the written question raised by the KCNA correspondent in Moscow on September 21.

In his answer, he said the Soviet people consider that it is necessary to increase efforts for deepening mutual trust between the North and the South of Korea and create a condition for the complete withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea.

Constructive are, he noted, the May 31, 1990, proposals of the DPRK the keynote of which is the limitation of military exercises and advance notification of them, discontinuation of the military exercises in which foreign troops are involved, the conversion of the Demilitarized Zone along the military demarcation line into a peace zone and the adoption of measures to prevent a casual incident.

He said he thought the question of U.N. membership of the countries divided for various reasons should be settled in view of their interests, he stated that this fully applies to Korea.

As regards the period of the entry into the U.N. and the form of its membership, we mainly proceed from the view that an agreement should be reached between the North and the South of Korea, he noted, and stressed: one of the ways of solving this problem is single U.N. membership of the North and the South of Korea proposed by the DPRK.

The Soviet Union is ready to support any decision agreed upon between the North and South of Korea on U.N. membership.

Sport Ministers Meet During Asian Games

SK2309110090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Beijing September 23 (KCNA)—Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the State Sports Commission and chairman of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Chong Tong-song, "sports minister" of the South side, participating in the 11th Asian Games, had a contact behind closed doors at Beijing Hotel this morning.

A joint news briefing was given on the spot after the contact.

There Chairman Kim Yu-sun expressed regret at the North and the South participating in the 11th Asian Games separately, failing to form a single team, though a complete agreement had been reached on the plan for the formation of a single team at the North-South sports talks held from March last year to January this year.

He declared that a sincere discussion was held at today's contact on the overall questions of North-South sports relations including the formation of a single team.

Cheering Group Talk Proposed

SK2109232990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] In Beijing, our side's delegation proposed to the South side's delegation that a contact be held.

It has been learned that our side's delegation, which is staying in Beijing to attend the 11th Asian Games, on 20 September proposed to the South side's delegation that a contact be held.

Reporters in the Beijing press center conjecture that the subject of a joint North-South cheering group will be discussed at a contact to be held soon.

Our side's delegation is waiting for the South side's delegation to reply to our side's proposal.

Agreement Reached on Cheering

SK2209230190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2224 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Beijing September 22 (KCNA)—The sports officials of the North and the South staying in Beijing to participate in the 11th Asian Games had a contact at the Beijing Hotel this morning.

The contact made at our side's proposal took place in camera by the agreement between the sides.

A joint news briefing was held at the Beijing Hotel this evening on the contact, which was addressed by Kim Hyong-chin, vice-chairman of the Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on the North side and Choe Man-nip, vice-chairman of the South Korean Olympic Committee, on the South side.

According to them, joint cheering of the players of the North and the South at the Beijing Asian Games was discussed at the contact.

It was agreed, first of all, at the contact to jointly cheer the players of the North and the South on the principle of placing the nation above everything else and contributing to the national interest, the national unity and the cause of national reunification.

For this purpose, the two sides agreed to cheer the players of the North and the South when they complete with foreigners, not to cheer one side only when players of the North and the South play games and to send cheers to any player, whether from the North or from the South, when he or she displays high skill and technique.

The sides also agreed to make Koreans overseas cheer the players of the Korean nation.

And the sides agreed to carry the flag of the single team agreed upon at the North-South sports talks, together with the flags of the North and the South, sing our national songs such as "Arirang," "The Nodul Riverside" and "Spring of the Home Village" and such songs of reunification theme as "Korea Is One" and "Our Wish Is Reunification" in the whole period of the games.

At the contact, the sides also agreed to refrain from acts slandering the other side or touching on the raw [as received] or from any act for propaganda purpose.

The speakers at the news briefing stressed that though the North and the South failed to participate in the Asiad as a single team, it was of weighty significance for the sides to have agreed to jointly cheer at the international game for the first time since the country's division.

The agreement between the sides, they said, not only demonstrated to the whole world firm will of Koreans in the North and the South that the country is one, but also made a great contribution to invigorating ever-growing sentiments for reunification and laying down a stepstone of the sports for reunification.

The speakers at the news briefing declared that, if any side violated the agreed points or scrapped them, it would be held responsible before the whole nation.

Report of Planned N-S Soccer Games Denied

SK2209090590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] A spokesman of the DPRK Soccer Association today gave the following answer to the question raised by the KCNA reporter in connection with an announcement issued by the South Korean soccer association that our soccer association made a formal proposal for holding games between representative teams of the North and the South.

According to a report, the South Korean soccer association recently announced that our soccer association sent an official telegram in connection with the holding of games between representative soccer teams of the North and the South in Pyongyang on 14 October. However, our soccer association never sent such a telegram to the South Korean soccer association, nor does it know anything about it.

Therefore, we recognize that the report that our soccer association sent a telegram to the South Korean soccer association in connection with games to be held in Pyongyang between representative teams of the North and the South is untrue and false.

We do not understand the reason why the South Korean soccer association unilaterally put forward the issue of soccer games, which our soccer association—the very party concerned—is unaware of, and why it spread such a false report.

South Delivers Gifts to Prisoners' Families

SK2209055590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 22 (KCNA)—Comforts sent by people in the northern half to those in South Korea who had visited the North, the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong, Father Mun Kyu-hyon and Yu Won-ho, were conveyed to their families.

As was reported, the North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks asked the South side to convey the comforts sent by people in the northern half of the country to the imprisoned visitors to the North before leaving Seoul at the end of the first talks on September 7.

The South side conveyed the comforts indirectly, that is, to the families of the visitors to the North and handed over to the North side on September 13 pictures of the scenes of delivery.

The comforts reflect the desire of the people in the North for reunification as well as their warm feelings of kinship for those who have been unreasonably thrown behind bars for their righteous trips to the North for reunification.

Contained in the boxes for Yim Su-kyong are her personal effects and a fountainpen from the director of the Nico Lopez Higher Party School of Cuba and his wife, tonic medicines from northerners such as wonhyong honeyed ginseng, sipchondaebohwan, kyongokko and wild ginseng, cloth for Korean costumes, dresses, padded trousers, a coat, a silk banner and her portrait, 36 kinds all told. Tonics and other kinds of comforts are contained in the boxes for Mun Ik-hwan, Yu Won-ho and Mun Kyu-hyon.

After receiving the comforts, the families of the visitors to the North express deep emotion and thanks for the kindness and warm kindred feelings of the northern people and earnestly picture to themselves the day when the 70 million fellow countrymen would live in happiness together, their faces beaming with smiles, in a reunified country.

The families of the visitors to the North including the parents of Yim Su-kyong declared they would hand the comforts to the addressees in prisons without fail.

South Red Cross Asked To Pass Student Message

SK2409063390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0554 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 24 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, in a telephone message today to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross, hoped a telephone message to be sent to the general student councils of Yonsei and Korea Universities at the request of the Korean Students Committee will be delivered.

The message dated September 24 is sent by Choe Hyon-tok, chairman of the Korean Students Committee, to Kwon O-chung, chairman of the General Student Council of Yonsei University, and Yun Chin-ho, chairman of the General Student Council of Korea University, through the South Korean Red Cross.

Noting that two delegates of the Korean Students Committee will be sent to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 15:00 September 24 to hand over the letter, the message hopes a corresponding step will be taken.

Further on Student Message

SK2409032390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0250 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Telephone Message from Yi Song-ho, Acting Chairman of the Red Cross Central Committee, to the President of the South Korean Red Cross Society—read by announcer]

[Text] To Kim Sang-hyop, president of the ROK [taehan] Red Cross Society:

According to the request of the Korean Student Committee, I send the following telephone message and ask you to convey it to the general student associations of Yonsei University and Korea University.

Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the DPRK Red Cross Central Committee.

24 September 1990

To Kwon O-chung, president of the General Student Association, Yonsei University,

Yun Chin-ho, president of the General Student Association, Korea University.

To convey the letters from the Korean Student Committee to the general student association of Yonsei University and to the general student association of Korea University, I will dispatch two representatives of the Korean Student Committee to the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1500 on 24 September.

I hope that the general student associations on your side will take corresponding steps.

Choe Hyon-tok, Chairman of the Korean Student Committee

24 September 1990.

More on Letter to Students

SK2409093690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0816 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society sent the following telephone message to the president of the South Korean Red Cross Society, because the South Korean Red Cross Society—which is not even the party concerned—said that it would send its liaison officers to receive the letter by the Korean Student Committee to the general student associations of Yonsei and Korea Universities.

To Kim Sang-hyop, president of the Korea National Red Cross:

I received your telephone message of 24 September.

According to the Korean Student Committee, it says if your side's liaison officers of the Red Cross Society come to receive the letter to the general student associations of Yonsei and Korea Universities, rather than delegates of the general student associations of Yonsei and Korea Universities, the letter cannot be handed over.

Therefore, it is inevitable to make the letter public through broadcasting.

Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society.

24 September 1990

Remarks of U.S. Commander in ROK Analyzed

SK2209055190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today hits out at the outburst of Robert Riscassi, commander of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea, that even if the United States should "cut back" on its forces present in South Korea, it would never totally withdraw them from the Korean peninsula and that the qualitative improvement of the U.S. forces in South Korea should be continued in future.

This reveals the brazen intention of the U.S. imperialist aggressors to continue maintaining their forces in South Korea and step up preparations for a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, the news analyst says, and goes on:

Withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea is now an urgent requirement which brooks no further delay for peace on the Korean peninsula.

At the first inter-Korean high-level talks held some time ago, our side raised again the question of withdrawal of U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea with a view to easing the tensions and creating a peaceful climate on the Korean peninsula.

It cannot but be construed otherwise than an act of throwing a wet blanket over the North-South High-Level Talks that the local commander of the U.S. occupation forces in South Korea betrayed the scheme for permanent occupation of South Korea by their aggression forces at this juncture.

Although they have clamored about "detente" and "troop reduction," the U.S. imperialists are acting contrary to their words.

It is by no means accidental that Riscassi cried for "qualitative improvement" of the U.S. forces, dead set against U.S. troop pullout from South Korea.

If the U.S. imperialists' scheme for permanent occupation of South Korea and a nuclear war is not frustrated, our nation in the North and the South would fall victim to the holocaust of nuclear war, and mankind would suffer irretrievable calamities from it.

The U.S. imperialists must renounce their anachronistic occupation policy, sign a peace agreement with us and withdraw their forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea without delay.

U.S.-ROK Aerial Exercises Reported, Denounced

SK2309083090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0819 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought scores of FA-18, A-6 and AV-8 pursuit-assault planes, assault planes and VTOL [vertical take-off and landing] to the Osan and Kunsan Air Force bases of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces present in South Korea on September 19 and 20, according to military sources.

From the 18th to 20th, they mobilized in succession the Guam-based KC-135 refueling tankers to the sky above the west sea of Korea and let them stage an exercise of night mid-air refueling for formations of F-16-fighter bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force and the puppet air force.

They mobilized in succession EH-60 helicopters for electronic warfare on September 18 and 19 in a frantic electronic war exercise in cooperation with fighter-bombers, assault planes and airborn warning and control planes belonging to the U.S. Seventh Air Force and the puppet air force.

On September 19, the U.S. imperialists brought again E-3 early warning plane from the Kadena base in Okinawa to the sky above the area near the military demarcation line for an espionage on targets in the depths and sky of the northern half of Korea, letting it command flying corps mobilized in the military exercise.

The U.S. Imperialists and the South Korean puppets on the 19th and 20th of September massively sent fighter-bombers, assault planes, airborn warning and control planes and reconnaissance planes to the sky above Pochon and Tongduchon for a strike exercise resembling a real war, supporting an offensive exercise of ground units against the North. They also sent many fighter-bombers, assault planes and airborn warning and control planes and reconnaissance planes to the air above Wonju, Pyongchang, Uljin, Anmyondo, Sangju, Yoju and Chungju for joint aerial strike exercises against the North under various names.

The planes mobilized there totalled more than 590.

All facts clearly show that the "detente," "unification" and "disarmament" about which the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are so loud-mouthed are a whopping lie and they are only watching for a chance of invasion of the North.

U.S. Persian Gulf Involvement Criticized

SK2309102290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2350 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Unattributed talk: "The U.S. Imperialists' War Maneuvers Being Perpetrated Under the Veil of Peace and Detente"]

[Text] Thanks to the active struggle of the peace-loving people of the world, today's overall international situation is gradually moving toward detente. Because of the U.S. imperialists' crafty maneuvers for aggression, however, the situation in some regions is moving along the road of extreme aggravation. The imperialists, including the U.S. imperialists, are further intensifying their maneuvers for aggression and war under the veil of so-called peace and detente.

The recent situation in the Persian Gulf vividly demonstrates this. The recent moves in the Persian Gulf show us how false and deceptive the peace and detente that the U.S. imperialists talk about are.

Reviewing the Persian Gulf situation, we can see that whenever an opportunity presents itself, the U.S. imperialists not only try to meddle in international disputes in a bid to achieve their dirty ambition of aggression, but also stop at nothing to achieve it.

When the Iraq-Kuwait dispute took place, the U.S. imperialists not only immediately intervened in it and attempted to meddle in the developments of the situation, but also escalated the situation in this region. As soon as the dispute took place, the U.S. imperialists imposed an economic blockade against Iraq in accordance with the orders of U.S. President Bush and sent their large-scale armed forces of aggression to Saudi Arabia, a leading producer country of crude oil. The excuse that the U.S. imperialists invented for sending their armed forces to this country was to prevent a war from expanding in this region. In other words, disguising themselves as if they were greatly interested in peace in the Middle East, the U.S. imperialists held that the dispatch of their armed forces was to check an Iraqi attack against Saudi Arabia. However, this was a sophistry designed to cover up their political, diplomatic, and military maneuvers, which have been perpetrated to completely grab and control the crude oil in the Middle East since a long time ago.

The situation that has developed since then tells us that the U.S. imperialists' dispatch of their armed forces was not for the alleviation of tension in the Persian Gulf region and for peace and security there, but for grabbing and controlling this region permanently in their quest to realize their global strategy.

According to foreign press reports, 90,000 U.S. troops have been deployed in Saudi Arabia, and, in addition to this, 35,000 U.S. Marine troops and pilots are stationed in the Persian Gulf region. With the dispatch of these huge armed forces to the Middle East in a bid to act as a so-called international military police force, the U.S. imperialists have not only imposed a sea blockade against ships bound for Iraq, but have also gone so far as to forcibly capture Iragi cargo ships. Because of this, a touch-and-go situation—which has aroused serious concerns among the people of the world—has been created in the Persian Gulf area.

The creation of such a tense situation in the Persian Gulf area is because of the U.S. imperialists' intervention in the Iraq-Kuwait dispute, making the dispute more complicated, without leaving it to be solved in a peaceful way, through negotiations, and within the framework of this region.

The U.S. imperialists' dirty ambition for aggression is also revealed in the recent remarks of U.S. Secretary of State Baker that the United States could continuously deploy its military troops in this region even after the Persian Gulf crisis ends. The U.S. imperialists are attempting to found a new NATO-type security organization in this region for the so-called security of the Middle East. This indicates that the U.S. imperialists will not withdraw from this region even after the Persian Gulf crisis is settled.

As we see, since the first day of the Persian Gulf crisis, the U.S. imperialists have tried to dominate the entire Middle East region, including the countries in the Persian Gulf region, far from trying to alleviate tension and to maintain peace in the region. All facts prove that the peace and detente that the U.S. imperialists are clamoring about is nothing but a sophistry designed to invade other countries and regions.

U.S. Military Assistance to Israel Denounced

SK2309085590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The United States, in the wake of its delivery of Apache helicopters to Israel, is to supply her with 10 "CH53" military helicopters, 60 "F16" fighters, hand-held "Stinger" missiles, parts for "F15" fighters and additional equipment for the ground and air forces.

And it promised her to transfer sophisticated "Patriot" missiles developed within the framework of "star wars" system.

Branding this step of the U.S. imperialists as an unpardonable crime which eggs Israel on to a war and territorial expansion, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

In increasing its military assistance to Israel the United States wants to realise its Mid-East strategy by manipulating the Zionists.

The U.S. reactionary ruling circles are talking much about "peaceful settlement and mediation" of the Middle East issue. But their real intention is to bring under their control the Mid-East region of military, strategical and economic importance at any cost.

To this end, they are using Israel as its shock brigade. History proves that the U.S. imperialists have constantly increased military aid to Israel.

Still more grave is the fact that the United States has supplied military hardware to Israel on a full scale since a "war cabinet" was formed in Israel and the Gulf crisis was created. The U.S. imperialists are hatching a war plot, while massing armed forces in the Gulf.

The U.S. imperialists' zealous military assistance to Israel at this very juncture cannot be construed otherwise than an attempt to use Israel in realizing their dominationist design on the Gulf.

This is an open challenge to the people in the region and the world peaceloving people who hope for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis.

The United States must take its interventionist hand off the Middle East and stop encouraging the Israeli aggressors to aggression and war.

USSR Thanks for Accepting Children Noted

SK2109221690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1509 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 21 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Soviet foreign ministry at a news briefing in Moscow on September 19 expressed thanks on behalf of the Soviet public to the DPRK government and Korean friends for accepting 100 Chernobyl children on a treatment and recreation trip to Korea, according to a report.

Japanese Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

SK2409071290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0638 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] A delegation of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] led by former Deputy Prime Minister and Diet member of the Japanese House of Representatives Shin Kanemaru and a delegation of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] headed by Vice Chairman of the JSP Central Executive Committee and member of the House of Representatives Makoto Tanabe arrived in Pyongyang at 1510 this afternoon.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Comrade Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], vice chairman of the Diplomatic Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], and SPA deputy; SPA deputies Choe Su-kil, director of a department of the WPK Central Committee; Chong Chun-ki, vice chairman of the Diplomatic Committee and chairman of the Korea Liaison Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; Choe Mun-son, responsible secretary of the WPK Pyongyang Municipal Committee; Yi Mong-ho, secretary general of the SPA Standing Committee; An Tong-yun and Kim Yang-kon, deputy directors of departments of the WPK Central Committee; other SPA deputies Kim Yo-ung, president of the Korea Civil Aviation Corporation; Nam Sun-hui, dean of Pyongyang Teachers' College; and other functionaries concerned.

Juvenile Corps members gave bouquets to the heads of the delegations.

Condolences Sent to CPC Military Commission

SK2309090290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0850 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 23 (KCNA)—The Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea on September 22 sent a message of condolence to the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China and the family of the diseased upon the death of Xu Xiangqian, a veteran communist fighter of China and one of the organizers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Expressing deep condolences at the death of Xu Xiangqian the message said that although he passed away the great feats he made for the victory of the Chinese people's revolution and building of the party, state and army of China will shine long.

Increased Ship Building, Innovations Noted

SK2209101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 22 (KCNA)—Shipyards of Korea are increasing ship building.

According to data available at the Ministry of Ship-Building Industry, about 70 ships are now under construction and many of them including 14,000-ton cargo ship, 1,000-ton fishing boats and detection boats will be completed within this month.

The North Hamgyong Provincial ship-building complex increases the speed of assembling a 20,000 ton cargo ship 20 percent by introducing the method of assembling on the ground. It has made a big progress in their efforts to commission the already launched 14,000 ton cargo ship within this month and in the construction of the assembly line to increase the capacity of building large-size cargo ships more than 40 percent.

The Nampo ship-building complex is hastening the work to complete a 14,000 ton cargo ship and assemble a dredger, a crane vessel and some trawlers simultaneously.

New innovations are being reported in the building of detection boats, fishing boats, passenger ships and other kinds of ships at the Wonsan shipyard and the Kim Chaek ship-building factory.

South Korea

Editorial Urges Flexible Attitude on UN Issue

SK2309015490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Korean Question at U.N."]

[Text] It is appropriate for the Seoul government to take a flexible strategy toward North Korea on the matter of Korea's entry into the United Nations. This is necessary to keep the forthcoming inter-Korean high-level talks slated for Oct. 16 in Pyongyang from being canceled.

If Seoul presses ahead with its sole admission into the world body, the North will certainly announce its unilateral breaking off of the projected talks or will attempt to make a mess of them. In this connection, Pyongyang already warned that Seoul's solitary entry into the U.N. might derail the prime ministers' talks in the North Korean capital.

Pyongyang is apparently attempting to link the Korean question at the United Nations with the forthcoming second high-level meeting slated for Oct. 16-19 in Pyongyang. And it is the same with the issue of the Seoul-proposed working-level contacts between the South and North Korean Red Cross societies.

The two-tier inter-Korean contacts on the U.N. question and Red Cross talks were agreed upon at the recent high-level talks in Seoul with the former proposed by the North and the latter by the South. This agreement is the only tangible achievement of the Seoul talks.

The dispute boils down to the formula for the two Koreas' acquisition of U.N. membership: Seoul's long-standing strategy to join the world body simultaneously with Pyongyang or enter it alone if the North refuses to do so, versus the North call for sharing one U.N. seat by the two Koreas.

The North Korean side claimed that the two sides may alternately occupy the U.N. seat for a certain period or jointly represent it, and that in voting Korea may exercise the right to vote, if they have reached an agreement, and if they disagree they may abstain.

Seoul's assertion is that joint entry would help advance reunification, as in the cases of West and East Germany and South and North Yemen, as the world organization is devoted to international peace and security and friendship among the member states. It was pointed out that two Koreas' separate U.N. entry is of course an interim step and after unification a united Korea may reenter the organization with a single seat.

In view of the fact that the U.N. is an organization of sovereign states, the North Korean proposal is certainly unrealistic. And practically, if the North's plan is accepted, the rival Koreas would hardly fulfill their rights and obligations toward the world organization, due to their disparate positions with regard to domestic and international affairs.

The recent shift of the North Korean strategy from unconditional opposition to Seoul's overture to a call for a one-seat U.N. membership is no doubt intended to counter the Seoul proposal for U.N. entry that has been gaining momentum with its successful Nordpolitik. Pyongyang seems to be attempting to stall the Seoul move toward the U.N. with its linking of the Korean question at the U.N. with the ongoing inter-Korean dialogue.

As a means of reinforcing the Seoul position, the government reportedly is considering an appropriate plan asking for an authoritative interpretation by the United Nations of the validity of the Pyongyang idea of two Koreas' sharing of one U.N. seat. Regardless of the prospective U.N. reply to the question, the Pyongyang stand is hardly expected to change.

The government will need soon or late to make a crucial decision as to whether it proceeds with its U.N. policy. In any event, any premature application for the membership should not scuttle the current South-North dialogue, even if Seoul has to defer its attempt until the next U.N. Assembly session next year.

Officials Plan Strategy for Pyongyang Talks

SK2409031590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek agreements with North Korea on halting mutual slander, on opening economic exchange and cooperation and on four other points when their prime ministers meet for talks in Pyongyang next month, a senior official said Monday. The four are setting up transportation and telecommunications links, prior notice of military exercises, peaceful use of the Demilitarized Zone and opening hotlines between high-ranking military officers in the South and North.

After a preparation session for the second inter-Korean high-level political and military talks, which are slated for Oct. 16-19, Yi Chin, chief secretary to Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, said the six points had been raised by both sides in the first high-level talks in Seoul on Sept. 5-6.

Monday's session was presided over by Kang and was attended by National Unification Minister Hong Suog-chol, National Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun, acting Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha and vice National Unification Minister Song Han-ho.

Later in the morning, Kang met with academicians in his office on how to respond to such North Korean demands as sharing U.N. Membership, scrapping the annual "Team Spirit" South Korea-U.S. Joint military drill, and releasing the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and other people convicted of illegally visiting North Korea.

Liaison Officers Meet in Panmunjom on UN Issue

SK2209081390 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0700 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] This morning at Tongilgak in the North's area of Panmunjom, North and South Korea held responsible liaison contacts for North-South High-Level Talks and discussed the issue of holding the second working level delegate's contacts to discuss the issue of entering the United Nations.

Kim Yong-hwan, our side's responsible liaison officer, and Choe Pong-chun, the North side's responsible liaison officer, participated in today's contact and reached principle agreement on holding the second working-level delegate's contacts. However, both sides decided to meet again at 1500 on 25 September at the Peace House, which is in our side of Panmunjom, to discuss, and decide the concrete date for the contacts.

Assemblyman Meets North's Yi Chong-ok in PRC

SK2209135090 Seoul Television Service in Korean 1200 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Pak Chol-on, national assemblyman from the Democratic Justice Party now visiting Beijing, confirmed that that he met with North Korean Vice President Yi Chong-ok for about 20 minutes at a reception held yesterday evening in the People's Congress Hall, but said that it was not appropriate to reveal specific details of the dialogue. Thus, he declined to make further comment.

North Korean reporters followed Assemblyman Pak Chol-on, asked him about his purpose of visiting Beijing, and showed great interest in him.

Games Inspire Hopes for Korean 'Breakthrough'

SK2309013090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 2

[From the "News in Review" column by political editor Chong Un-pong: "S-N Contacts in Beijing Draw Wide attention"]

[Text] People hope some magic works in Beijing. It is not that they want the Korean contingent to hit the second place as hoped, much less win out against the host nation, China, to capture the gold.

They are hoping for some breakthrough to the still chilly relations between the divided halves of the Korean peninsula. Fortunately, there is a spate of hopeful signs. Unlike in the past, North Korean athletes are very agreeable, making no scruples in starting conversations with people from the South.

Besides the apparent behavioral change, good news bursts forth these days, auguring that something really good might come about to the joy of the people in the South and North. It seems that the South and North broadly agreed to hold friendly soccer match in Pyongyang next month to be followed by another one in Seoul.

Besides this, the two are planning on forming a unified team for the Barcelona Olympics. The authorities in the South readily gave the go sign to a group of musicians who applied for government permission to go to Pyongyang to take part in a music festival next month. All these lead to the hopeful thought that something good might be in the offing.

Now all the leading sports officials and influential figures from the two sides have thronged to Beijing not only for the sports extravaganza but also for sounding out each other probably to place South-North relations on a new footing, quite different from the past stained with blood and mutuality hostility.

This is why the attention of the people are drawn to Beijing. The possible meeting in Beijing between officials of South and North Korea is special in the timing.

The first premiers' meeting between the two sides was recently held in Seoul, followed by a visit to Shenyang by North Korean President Kim Il-song. The visit was made in secrecy. And the visit was not made to Beijing apparently because of Chinese reluctance to have him in the world spotlight. Kim's clandestine three-day visit to the provincial city was preceded by the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Pyongyang. The Soviet foreign minister certainly let on about the plan of the Soviet Union to enter diplomatic ties with South Korea, something really painful to Kim.

How much Kim was displeased was well demonstrated by the fact that Shevardnadze was denied a meeting with Kim during his stay in Pyongyang. Kim may have felt that the world trend for change is closing in on the most regimented society of North Korea. It is not known what Kim discussed with Chinese leaders during his short Chinese trip.

But, what is certain is that North Korea felt the need to change, if not greatly, to adjust itself to the new world order now forming from the ashes of the Cold War polarized by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Amidst possible change in North Korea, what draws special attention is Japan's move. A high-powered delegation of the Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is to visit North Korea shortly to set up some form of relationship. It appears that Japan which has diplomatic ties with South Korea alone against North Korea is more desirous of enetring ties with North Korea, than North Korea with Japan.

The Japanese authorities are saying that they are planning to enter whatever form of relationship with North Korea just to counterweigh Seoul's successful approaches to the Soviet Union and China. There is a lingering suspicion that Japan, which is primarily responsible for Korean division, is again playing politics with the division.

Sports Ministers Agree To Hold More Talks

SK2309112090 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] ROK Sports Minister Chong Tong-song and his counterpart, North Korth Korean Sport Commission Chairman Kim Yu-sun, held North-South sports ministers' talks this morning at the Beijing Hotel. In the talks the two men agreed to hold North-South sports talks again at an early date after the Beijing Asian Games, in order to discuss the issue of forming North-South single teams for the Barcelona Olympics and other international sports events.

In the talks today, the sports officials of the North and the South agreed that the site of the North-South sports talks will be Seoul, Pyongyang, or Panmunjom and that this will be decided at a working-level contact. In today's talks the two sports officials also agreed that in the North-South sports talks they will discuss the issue of forming a North-South single team for the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and other international sports events in the future, the issue of holding North-South soccer matches in Pyongyang and Seoul, and the issue of holding joint North-South cycling and marathon races.

Accordingly, the possibility of the North-South soccer games in Pyongyang and Seoul, which were expected to be held around mid-October right after the Beijing Asiad, will be decided depending on the result of the North-South sports talks. Sports Minister Chong Tong-song will return to Seoul tomorrow.

On the other hand, a high-ranking government official expressed regret over the fact that the original plan to hold North-South soccer games in Pyongyang and Seoul has to be discussed again at the North-South sports talks.

North Sports Official Comments on N-S Exchange

SK2209115190 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 22 Sep 90 p 11

[Interview with Kim Yu-sun, chairman of the DPRK Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee, in Beijing—date not given]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Is it all right for us to consider your meeting with [ROK] Sports Minister Chong Tong-song as formal sports talks?

[Kim] The South side has not formally requested a meeting. It would be all right for us to meet naturally, would it not? When we meet, we will discuss pending North-South issues.

[Reporter] The North and South do not participate in the current Asian Games as a single team. What do you think of this?

[Kim] A final decision could have been made in the 11th sports talks. However, a single team could not be formed because of the South side's opposition.

A single team of the Korean nation should have been formed for the Asian Games. I hope that single teams will be formed for the Barcelona Olympics and other sports events, thus displaying the superiority of our nation.

[Reporter] Do you intend to hold a cycling event and marathon in the North and South, as well as soccer games?

[Kim] I think that a good result will come about if we discuss these issues. However, the South media's hasty reports on North-South sports exchanges may pose obstacles to reaching agreement on exchange.

Agreement Reached on Joint Cheering at Asiad

SK2209144790 Seoul YONHAP in English 1417 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Beijing, Sept. 22 (YONHAP)—For the first time in 45 years, Koreans from the two divided halves will sit together on the spectators' stands at competition sites for joint cheering of their athletes in the Beijing Asiad, sports officials of both sides said Saturday.

Choe Man-lip, vice president of the South Korean Olympic Committee, and vice president Kim Hyong-chin of the North Korean Olympic Committee agreed that supporters of one side be allowed to cheer the other side, they said in a press conference at Beijing Hotel.

They agreed that the two sides could wave any flag they chose, whether it be their respective flags or the one agreed upon in earlier inter-Korean sports talks which collapsed at the end of last year. The abortive talks were supposed to discuss forming a single Korean team for the Beijing Asiad.

The two NOC's also agreed in a 150-minute meeting here that supporters of each side refrain from slandering the other side. They also agreed to use such traditional Korean folksongs as "Arirang" and "Nodul Kangbyun," and "Our wish is unification," a popular song featuring the national aspiration for reunification. Overseas Koreans visiting the Chinese capital to see the games will be encouraged to participate in the joint cheering, he said.

The two said they discussed only the matter of joint cheering, leaving the other issues to the a ministerial level talks slated for Sunday.

Choe said that sports ministers of the two sides will discuss overall issues concerning sports exchanges between South and North Korea in the first-ever sports ministers' meeting.

Soviet Says North 'Showing Signs of Change'

SK2209095990 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] North Korea is showing signs of change, though not so conspicuous as in Eastern European and other socialist countries, a former bureau chief of the Soviet news agency TASS in Pyongyang said here Friday.

Aleksandr Zevin, who worked as a TASS correspondent in Pyongyang for seven years till May, said in an interview with YONHAP NEWS AGENCY that the North Korean capital had recently seen an increase of coffee shops, bars and restaurants, and that such establishments were overcrowded at night.

Zevin said South Korea looked better than North Korea in every aspect, but added that Pyongyang was a nice place for foreigners to live in and that he liked the city very much, denying earlier reports that he was ordered to leave Pyongyang because of his criticism about the regime.

Turn in North Korean-Soviet Relations Analyzed

SK2309012990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Sep 90 p 2

[From the "News Analysis" column by staff reporter Yi Sung-yol": "N.K. May Accept Peaceful Co-Existence With Seoul: Under Growing Pressure for Reforms"]

[Text] While foreign ministers from South Korea and the Soviet Union are to meet in New York Sept. 30 to establish diplomatic ties between the two countries, Pyongyang-Moscow relations seem to be estranged.

The degree of this estrangement can be seen with the unusual memorandum North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam delivered to Eduard Shevardnadze when the Soviet foreign minister visited North Korea Sept. 2-3.

In the memorandum, which a North Korean government paper belatedly disclosed Wednesday, Pyongyang expressed its fierce opposition to Moscow's move to normalize ties with Seoul, saying that would virtually approve the two Koreas and run counter to efforts for the reunification of Korea.

When Moscow pushes diplomatic ties with Seoul, then it would nullify the 1961 alliance between the USSR and the DPRK, and North Korea will no longer buy weapons from the Soviets, Pyongyang said in the memorandum.

It was unusual that a North Korean paper ever made public the whole of the diplomatic memorandum, and the fact shows how much Pyongyang is displeased with and embarrassed by the prospects for Seoul-Moscow normalcy.

After his Pyongyang visit, during which Shevardnadze informed the North of Moscow's intention to normalize ties with Seoul, he was quoted as commenting that "It was a very difficult meeting."

It must have been very difficult for Shevardnadze because his North Korean counterpart Kim told him that if Moscow establishes diplomatic ties with Seoul, Pyongyang will support the independence and autonomy of the USSR's 15 republics and establish diplomatic ties with the republics. Kim also said North Korea will support Japan in an aboutface on the Moscow-Tokyo conflict over Japan's call for return of four small islands north of Hokkaido.

A Seoul official says a Soviet Foreign Ministry official, who accompanied Shevardnadze in his Pyongyang visit, has informed Seoul that the Soviet foreign minister stressed the need and inevitability of Seoul-Moscow normalcy.

Though Pyongyang went as far as menacing the Soviets, it is feeling isolated and frustrated, and even China, its longtime ally, is expected to improve ties with Seoul and soon establish consular-level relations following the Beijing Asian Games. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in his unprecedented article in the Komsomolskaya Pravda, urged Moscow to cut ties with countries that gnaw at the Soviet economy, such as North Korea and Cuba.

Seoul, conscious of Pyongyang's situation, announced it does not want the North to be isolated from international society, and President No Tae-u, expressed the hope for bettered Pyongyang-Tokyo and Pyongyang-Washington ties in accordance with Seoul's improved relations with Moscow and Beijing.

Now the pivotal issue for North Korean leaders seems to be to minimize the threat of collapse of its political and socioeconomic system. Following Shevardnadze's Pyongyang visit, the North recently invited 17 southern musicians and reporters to a music festival to be held in Pyongyang Oct. 18-24, and suggested an inter-Korea goodwill soccer game in Pyongyang Oct. 14 after the Beijing Asia. The overtures were the most appeasing Pyongyang has ever made to the South since the division of the peninsula 45 years ago.

Seoul was in fact surprised last month that Pyongyang accepted a proposal for a series of inter-Korea premiers' meetings, the first round of which was held in Seoul Sept. 4-7, and the recent overtures are even more surprising.

Does this mean North Korea is gradually changing?

North Korea watchers in Seoul agree that the gestures, whatever intentions lies behind them will in the long term contribute to improved inter-Korea relations. But some say North Korean leaders have come to understand that they can no longer resist pressures from Moscow and Beijing for openness and reforms and that they have to accept some changes, whatever they are, to some extent.

They predict Pyongyang will gradually accept the peaceful co-existence of the two systems in the Korean peninsula, even though co-existence would not be the final goal of the two Koreas. But other North Korea watchers say the North Korean system will basically not change as long as the governing forces of the North, including "the Great Leader" Kim Il-song, continue to exist. They say they don't expect the North to come up with real improvements in relations with the South and Pyongyang believes co-existence of the two systems and increased exchanges between the two sides would lead to the collapse of the North Korean system.

And so the recent North Korean overtures are part of Pyongyang's strategy to block Seoul's unilateral entry into the United Nations and to delay the process of normalized relations between Seoul and Moscow and Seoul and Beijing.

When Shevardnadze visited Pyongyang, Kim Il-song refused to meeting him, and his turn, Kim was reportedly denied a visit to Beijing when he tried to meet with top Chinese leaders shortly after Shevardnadze's Pyongyang visit: Kim went no farther than Shenyang, and met with a Chinese official, whose name still remains unknown.

Kim must have asked for Chinese support and help following Moscow's cool attitude toward him, but was only informed that Beijing may set up consular-level ties with Seoul after the Asiad.

North-South Film Festival Planned for New York

SK2409030990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0258 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—A festival of South and North Korean films will be held in New York on Oct. 10-14, a spokesman for the Motion Picture Producers Association (MPPA) said Monday. Nine North Koreans, led by a deputy prime minister-level official, are expected in New York on Oct. 8 to meet the South Korean participants on Oct. 9, the spokesman said. Eight North Korean films will be shown, including "Road." The South Korean films will include "Surrogate Mother."

"I cannot release the names of the North Korean delegates, though we received the list today, because we have not yet got government permission to contact North Koreans," he said in a telephone interview. "We will apply for permission from the government today." The South Korean delegates are all movie stars, one of whom is Sin Song-il, the spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

A plan to award prizes to two films was cancelled so that the festival would be non-competitive, MPPA chairman Kang Tae-sun said on Saturday. Participants will discuss exchanges of films between the two Koreas, Kang said.

Japan's Kanemaru Leads Delegation to DPRK

SK2409020790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—An 89-member Japanese government delegation, including 13 lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and two foreign ministry officials, leaves Japan for North Korea Monday afternoon to seek an improvement in bilateral relations. It will be the first visit by government officials and members of the long-ruling LDP to the communist half of the Korean peninsula since Korea's division in 1945. Japan has diplomatic relations with the capitalist South but not with the North.

Led by former deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru, the delegation will seek an exchange of liaison offices by Tokyo and Pyongyang and will ask for the release of the crew of Fujisan-Maru, a Japanese freighter, detained by the North a few years ago in meetings with North Korean President Kim Il-song, officials and lawmakers.

Japan has a semi-official "exchange association" in Taiwan and hopes to establish a similar institution in North Korea, but will seek other channels if the North objects such an establishment on the ground that it means two Koreas.

The delegation will deliver a letter from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to the North Korean Government expressing regret for Japan's wrongs during its colonial rule of Korea (1910-45) and particularly during World War II, and inquiring about North Korea's demand for compensation.

Delegates and members of the North Korean Workers (communist) Party will discuss North Korea's access to Japanese communication satellites and operation of direct chartered flights between the two countries. Also up for discussion will be lowering tariffs on imports from Japan, dispatching a trade mission to Pyongyang to encourage imports of Japanese products, clearing North Korea's debts to Japan and technology transfer.

The Japanese delegation and the workers party will issue a joint communique on their discussions.

The delegation includes 10 lawmakers of the major opposition Japan Socialist Party, which has functioned as a channel for dialogue between the two nations in the absence of diplomatic ties.

Opposition to Kim Chong-il Reportedly Appearing

SK2209104190 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 22 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Tokyo, YONHAP—On 22 September, Japan's KYODO News Service reported that a movement opposing the transfer of power to Kim Chong-il has been gradually appearing recently in North Korea.

This news service revealed that on 21 September, Pyongyang radio carried a special article emphasizing the need to establish a strong regulation of the Workers' Party of Korea through Kim Chong-il's leadership and activities," hinting that there exists a movement that opposes the succession system. This news service stated that the North Korean top-level executives are feeling a strong sense of crisis due to the rise of the opposing forces that have been influenced due to incidents in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Deng Xiaoping, Kim Il-song Talk Reported

SK2409020490 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 24 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that Deng Xiaoping, the supreme power holder in China, personally met with North Korean President Kim Il-song in Shenyang on 12 September and advised him that North Korea should undertake dialogue, exchanges, and cooperation with South Korea sincerely.

Quoting remarks of a person close to Deng Xiaoping, a diplomatic source in Seoul well versed in Chinese issues on 23 September said that "on 11 September, Deng left Beijing by train for Shenyang to meet North Korean President Kim Il-song, who arrived there secretly, and held talks with him for about 40 minutes on 12 September in the Guest House in Shenyang." The source also noted that "some foreign news reported from Beijing that Kim Il-song visited Beijing, but that this report was made by mistaking Deng Xiaoping's trip to Shenyang, because he passed the Beijing railway station."

The source said that "a person from the Chinese side explained that the atmosphere of talks between Deng and Kim did not seem as friendly as in the past. Judging from this, it was observed that there were many differences in their viewpoints." The source pointed out that "at the talks, Kim explained the results of the talks between the Soviet and North Korean foreign ministers in Pyongyang in early September, about the aggravated USSR-North Korean relations, and about the North Korean position on North-South dialogue. It seemed that Kim asked China to refrain from seeking prompt improvements in its relations with South Korea.

The source stated that "Kim also asked China to offer necessary support for improving relations with the United States and to check South Korea's unilateral entry into the United Nations." However, Deng Xiaoping revealed his position that not only for the sake of easing tension on the Korean peninsula but also for the stability of North Korea's power system and for overcoming its economic difficulties, dialogue, exchanges, and cooperation between North and South Korea are desirable. The source added that it has been learned that Deng Xiaoping advised Kim Il-song that North Korea should attend the various North-South dialogues, including the currently-ongoing North-South premiers talks, more sincerely.

Wu Xueqian Confirms Jiang-Kim Il-song Talks

SK2209003090 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Report by correspondent Yu Sung-che from Tokyo]

[Text] During a luncheon for former Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita at a Beijing hotel on 21 September, Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian said that Kim Il-song visited the northeast region of China in mid-September and held talks with CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin. Vice Premier Wu Xueqian said that during his talks with General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Kim Il-song expressed a strong desire to improve North Korea's relations with Japan.

It has been learned that General Secretary Jiang Zemin and Kim Il-song held talks 12-13 September in Shenyang, in northeast China. Wu Xueqian is the first high-level Chinese Government official to confirm the talks.

Choe Ho-chung Comments on Foreign Policy Issues

SK2309105290 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 Sep 90 p 2

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung by reporter Yi Chae-ho—date and place not given]

[Text] [Choe] We are told to hurry when doing good things. Since the two countries have agreed to discuss the establishment of diplomatic relations, I will see to it that the two countries sign an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations at the earliest possible date.

[Reporter's note] Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, who left for New York on 23 September for a meeting with his Soviet counterpart and to attend the 45th UN General Assembly session, seemed to be preoccupied with setting a date for signing the agreement.

[Yi] What form will the two countries choose to announce the agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations?

[Choe] Well, it depends on the outcome of my conversation with the Soviet side. However, I think there are a couple of ways the two countries can do this, namely a joint statement, or the signing of a provisional agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations. I do not intend to insist on any specific manner.

[Yi] Do you think that the two countries will proceed to an exchange of visits by the state leaders after signing the agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations? Some people seem to be convinced that President No will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union before the end of this year.

[Choe] In bilateral relations, it is not desirable for any one side to insist that its own desire be fulfilled. Generally, when two countries establish diplomatic relations, it is possible for them to exchange visits between heads of state, emissaries, and foreign ministers. However, we cannot talk about a visit to the Soviet Union by our head of state before the other side mentions it.

[Yi] After the Soviet Union, China will be the only country with which we will not have diplomatic relations. What do you think are the prospects for improving relations with China?

[Choe] Well, I think our country will have to concentrate all diplomatic effort on improving relations with China. China, I think, values the sense of obligation characteristic of the Orient and, therefore, it is not easy to improve relations with China. Moreover, China is at the moment so preoccupied with the Beijing Asian Games that it is all the more difficult for us to approach it. I think we must be deliberate in approaching China.

[Yi] Rumors have it that Korea and China will open trade missions and consular offices before the end of this year.

[Choe] Our basic stand is that in improving relations with China, we must first start with opening governmental offices, just as we did in improving relations with the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, we should not be stubborn in our stand and if China stands firm on its stand, we will have to find some other way.

[Yi] Do you plan to discuss this issue even further when you meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen during the upcoming UN General Assembly session?

[Choe] I think I will be able to meet with him without ceremony in a banquet to be arranged by Japan and Indonesia for foreign ministers from the Asian countries and at some other meetings. China hopes to take part in the third conference of ministers of the Asian and Pacific countries, which is to be held in Seoul next year. As the host country to this meeting, Korea has a considerably influential say in deciding on Chinese participation in it. For this reason, if no other, Korean-Chinese contacts will continue at various levels.

[Yi] What is going to happen with the issue of our country entering the United Nations? Some people wonder whether our country must seek a unilateral membership of the United Nations in face of North Korea's opposition.

[Choe] There seems to be a little misunderstanding about it. Our country does not insist on our own unilateral admission. We have called for a joint representation of the South and North at the United Nations. With North Korea objecting to it, the result is that we appear to be seeking our country's unilateral entry. We must get ourselves admitted into the United Nations, as a matter of course. It is no longer our own problem. Many countries wish that our country play a role in the international arena. Even Liechtenstein has been admitted into that world body and it has 160 member states. There is no reason why we should not seek to enter it. North Korea's assertions are not persuasive any longer. Eighty-four countries have established diplomatic relations simultaneously with the South and North. So, North Korea's logic of objecting to it on the ground that our country's unilateral representation at the United Nations will lead to the recognition of two Koreas is unreasonable.

[Yi] Do you plan to apply for membership during the upcoming fall session of the United Nations?

[Choe] The Soviet Union and China, countries that can exercise their veto, advise us to discuss the matter with the North before filing an application. So, we will decide our stand after discussing it with North Korea.

[Reporter's note] Foreign Minister Choe is expected to hold talks with his U.S. and Japanese counterparts during the UN General Assembly session and to return on 5 October.

USSR To Receive $2 Billion in Economic Aid

SK2409040190 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 23 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] It was revealed on 22 September that, with the foreign ministers' talks between the ROK and the Soviet Union approaching on 30 Sep, the two countries have tentatively agreed to make the scale of ROK economic aid to the Soviet Union around $2 billion.

A government source said on Saturday that the government policy is to push ahead with economic cooperation with the Soviet Union in such a way as to bring the greatest possible benefits to the national economy by providing the Soviet Union with goods rather than cash. The source said that the government is planning to provide the Soviet Union with a total of $2 billion over a period of 5 to 10 years through bank loans, nongovernmental business investment, assistance with deferred payments for imports, assistance from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), and outright loans.

The source said that this amount is approximately the same as the Soviet side recently proposed to our side through a diplomatic channel.

The source said that the Soviet Union wishes to receive cash loans while the ROK Government's policy is to avoid giving cash as much as possible, and that, therefore, the two countries should discuss this matter to finalize the specific blueprint of economic cooperation.

Another government official said that the two countries agreed at the ROK-USSR government delegations' meeting in August that the two sides will push ahead with the establishment of diplomatic relations and economic cooperation simultaneously and that the agreement on the scale of the economic cooperation means the establishment of diplomatic relations are close at hand.

This government official said that the six economy-related agreements, some of which have already been signed, do not necessarily have to be signed before the establishment of diplomatic relations, and added that because of the difference in the tax systems resulting from the different economic systems, it will be quite some time before the agreement on the prevention of double taxation is signed.

He also said that since the agreement on fishing, in particular, is to be pushed from the standpoint of our unilateral need, its signing is not likely until the end of this year.

The ROK and the Soviet Union signed the trade and aviation agreement on 14 September and are expected to sign the economic, science, and technological cooperation agreement and the investment safeguard agreement by early October. The two countries had agreed, at the first round of the ROK-USSR intergovernmental talks held in August, to sign the six economy-related agreements by the end of the year.

Opposition Rumbles Over Developing Soviet Ties

SK2309010290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Fault Finding"]

[Text] As the sought-after establishment of official relations between Seoul and Moscow looms, the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] appears eager to find an object of attack.

PPD spokesman Kim Tae-sik said, "There are jitters among the people, raising the questions if the government buys the diplomatic ties, whether our economy can afford $4 billion worth of economic aid to the Soviet Union and whether the investments in the Soviet Union is safe."

He demanded that the government bring the whole picture of the Seoul-Moscow improvement of relations to light.

The opposition party also wished to share the fruits of the "Nordpolitik," calling upon the government to consult with it about diplomatic policy.

Spokesman Kim added, "The consultation with the opposition party is necessary to make Nordpolitik a success."

Source Says Shevardnadze Told North About Ties

SK2209044590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0242 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean and Soviet foreign ministers will agree to establish diplomatic relations when they meet in New York on Sept. 30, a high-ranking government source said Saturday.

The agreement will be announced after the talks between Choe Ho-chung of Korea and Eduard Shevardnadze of the Soviet Union, the source said.

"It is not certain yet whether the two ministers will sign a protocol relating to the establishment of diplomatic relations in their first talks. The two governments might sign the protocol at a later time and proceed with opening formal diplomatic ties," the source said.

The source confirmed reports that Shevardnadze has formally informed North Korea during his visit to Pyongyang early this month that Moscow intends to establish diplomatic ties with Seoul.

Science, Technology Group Leaves for USSR

SK2309012290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] A high-level government delegation will leave for the Soviet Union today to lay groundwork for the signing of the Korean-Soviet science and technology cooperation agreement, the Science-Technology Ministry said yesterday.

The 13-member mission will be headed by Vice Science-Technology minister Choe Yong-hwan. During their 8-day stay in Moscow, the Korean officials will consult with Soviet officials and scientists on joint research projects and exchanges of scientists and students in detail, the ministry said.

The discussions will focus on combining the Soviets' advanced basic sciences and high technologies with Korea's applied and industrial scientific knowledge. The Korean delegation will discuss the operation of the joint Korean-Soviet science-technology commission during its visit to the Soviet committee for science and technology (GKNT), according to the ministry. The government mission will also visit the Soviet state planning committee (GOSPLAN), the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the Soviet nuclear industry ministry.

The two sides will promote technology-oriented joint ventures through the United nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in a meeting at the UNIDO Moscow center. During their visits to Licensintorg Co. and Kurchatov nuclear reserach institute, Korean officials will discuss ways to promote the transfer of Soviet high technology and develop joint research on nuclear fusion, the ministry said. The Korean mission will also seek Soviet technological cooperation in the field of nuclear energy safety, according to the ministry.

Moscow To Lower Port Charges for ROK Vessels

SK2409015290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0137 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union has promised to charge South Korean vessels the same harbor rates as Soviet ships from Oct. 1, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said Monday.

A KMPA official said Moscow had accepted a Korean request to scrap discriminatory rates on ships using Soviet ports. The Soviet Union has charged higher rates for foreign-flag ships, except for vessels from countries that have signed a maritime accord with Moscow. At the port of Vostochnyy, docking fees for a normal foreign ship are 0.138 rubles per cubic meter, compared with 0.063 rubles for Soviet vessels.

Korea's plea for equal treatment was rejected in March 1989 at the second round of Seoul-Moscow maritime talks, but the response at the third round this July was favorable, the official said.

Solarz' Call for ROK's Troops in Gulf Assailed

SK2209115890 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Sep 90 p 3

[Article by Pang Hyong-nam from the "Reporters' Eye" column: "Solarz's Logic in Calling on Korea to Dispatch Troops"]

[Text] After demanding for our share of expenses for the defense of the Persian Gulf, the United States, going one step farther, is going to ask our country to dispatch troops to Saudi Arabia.

Although this issue was raised in a U.S. Congressional hearing, we cannot make light of its significance since it was mentioned by Solarz, a Democratic Congressman who chairs the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, which has a great say in the formulation of U.S. foreign policy. The logic in the words of Chairman Solarz and Republican Congressman Donald Lukens, who called on Korea to send troops to Saudi Arabia, can be summed up as follows: First, the dispatch of Korean armed forces to the Middle East will contribute to its future security; second, Korea is in no danger of being invaded by North Korea even if it sends troops to the Middle East; and third, Korea should express its gratitude for the freedom it has enjoyed over the past 40 years.

The second reason is persuasive. We know better than anybody else that the South and North on the Korean peninsula, following talks between prime ministers, are changing their attitude toward each other to the point where they are proposing exchanges of soccer games in their capital cities.

With his second reason, however, Chairman Solarz has caught us off guard by trying to hold us hostage to another round of bloody fratricide. His assertion is that if Korea sends its troops to the Middle East, it can expect, with certainty, military assistance from foreign countries if and when a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula. While insisting that Korea is in no danger of being invaded by North Korea, he wants us to take out "insurance" for foreign military assistance against a southward invasion.

We can hardly suppress our feeling that the third reason he cited is also unreasonable. Gratitude in the true sense of the word should come from the beneficiary. Even after admitting that the benefactor can ask the beneficiary to pay a price for gratitude, it is doubtful that there are many people who think that Korea has benefited from the international community to the point where it is willing to send its youth to the Middle East and to allow them to shed blood.

He also said that our country has enjoyed freedom over the past 40 years. Even so, few Korean people believe that the U.S. politicians, who should take a greater share of responsibility for the division of the nation that has forced the Korean people to suffer the 26 June war and that to date has kept the South and North in a standoff, are qualified to say such things.

However, what has surprised us more than anything else is that the United States has enormously different reasons to justify its decision to dispatch its troops to the Middle East and its call for Korea to also send in armed forces.

U.S. President Bush explained that he was sending troops to the Middle East "at the request of Saudi Arabia" and to defend it. Also, it was according to a UN resolution and in the name of the world body that many countries, including the United States, sent their troops to the Middle East and imposed an economic embargo against Iraq. Our country, however, is not a member state of the United Nations and we have not been asked to send armed forces to Saudi Arabia.

For this reason, many people in Korea are displeased with the government's decision to provide about $1 billion to the United States, which wants us to share defense expenses in the Middle East.

If, going one step farther, the government decides to send troops to the Middle East, it will find it difficult to persuade the people of the correctness of its decision. The government should also realize that by sending Korean armed forces to the Middle East, it will only put itself to shame, demonstrating to the world that Korea is nothing but a mercenary, servile to the dictates of the United States.

Foreign Ministry Official on Gulf Aid Package

SK2409033790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0317 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 24 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will provide 220 million U.S. dollars over two years to support Operation Desert Shield and countries hit by the latest crisis in the Persian Gulf, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday.

But Korea has not been asked to send troops to the Gulf and thus has no plan to dispatch any, Vice Foreign Minister Yu Chong-ha said.

Yu told a news conference that the assistance is 50 million dollars in cash and 70 million dollars in materials or services for the multi-national force in the Gulf and 100 million dollars in economic assistance for Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, which face economic difficulties because of the dispute.

Yu made the announcement on behalf of Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung, who left for New York on Sunday to attend the United Nations General Assembly, during which he will have unprecedented talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss the normalization of diplomatic ties.

The Korean contribution falls short of the U.S. request of 350 million dollars. "The government, in light of the fact that illegal aggression by force should not be tolerated under international law and justice, has decided to support international efforts to restore order in the Persian Gulf from the judgement that we should respect the U.N. Security Council's resolution on a trade embargo against Iraq and should bear a part of the cost of maintaining international peace in accordance with our ever-growing national power," Yu said. It is the first time South Korea has provided direct military assistance overseas since it sent combat troops to help South Vietnam during 1965-1974.

Yu said the United States had asked for 350 million dollars but agreed to a package of 220 million dollars last weekend after taking into consideration Korea's burden sharing for U.S. forces stationed in the country and its economic difficulties.

Most Korean people, according to published polls, oppose the U.S. pressure on their government to provide military assistance due to the hefty burden of its own defense and economic difficulties. Student activists and dissidents critical of the United States have staged protests against the U.S. request, which fueled anti-American feelings in Korea.

Yu said 50 million dollars in cash for the upkeep of the multi-national troops will be provided over two years. He said the 70 million dollars includes non-lethal materials and services such as uniforms, gas masks, tents and the use of cargo planes and ships. The economic assistance covers 40 million dollars of long-term loans with low interest rates to Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, 10 million dollars worth of grain (30,000 tons of rice), 50 million dollars to the International Migration Organization for support of war refugees and consumer goods, the vice minister said.

Separately from the aid package, the Korean Government is also considering sending medical teams to the Gulf and concrete plans will be decided after consultations with the relevant countries in the area, Yu said. Yu also said Washington has never asked Seoul to send troops to the Gulf. "We know that the U.S. Congress and media have contended that Korea dispatch at least a brigade-level unit to the Gulf, but the U.S. Administration shared the understanding that it is undesirable for Korea to bring change in military balance on the Korean peninsula in light of security circumstance in the region and reduction of U.S. troops," Yu said.

In deciding on the aid package, the government also took into consideration that South Korea depends 75 percent, or 240 million barrels in 1989 alone, of its total oil needs upon countries in the Gulf, Yu said. "...We see that restoration of order of oil demand and supply and stabilization of oil price through an early settlement of the Middle East dispute would help improve our trade balance and ensure domestic price stability," Yu said.

Meanwhile, the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy headed by Kim Tae-chung said in a statement it withheld comment on the aid plan until it reviews details but that South Korea should not send troops to the Gulf.

Committee for East-Bloc Trade To Be Formed

SK2309010690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 9

[Text] The government will set up a special committee to regulate private economic and trade exchanges with China, the Soviet Union and other communist countries with which Seoul maintains no diplomatic relations.

According to the Trade-Industry Ministry, the committee, which will be established next month, will control excess competition by business concerns in such communist countries.

Specifically, companies will be required to obtain approval of the panel before they engaged in economic and trade exchanges with communist nations.

The panel will also control the dispatch of trade missions, exhibitions, seminars, the development of natural resources and technological tie-ups.

Business concerns which fail to report their economic and trade projects with communist countries beforehand will face various restrictions on the carrying out of their overseas projects.

Bank loans and financial support to them will also be limited.

The government is determined to cool down excess competition in communist countries among enterprises, cut business risks and build confidence in those nations. The committee members will be composed of officials from the Economic Planning Board, the Trade-Industry Ministry, the Finance Ministry and other economic-related agencies.

$3 Billion Trade Deficit for First 8 Months

SK2309010590 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Sep 90 p 6

[Text] The nation's trade balance, which was in the black in June and July, went into the red again last month, bringing about a deficit of $3,000 million for the first eight months of this year.

According to the Office of Customs Administration, the exports amounted to $40.5 billion on a customs clearance basis during the eight-month period, up 1.9 percent over $39.7 billion in the same year-earlier period. The imports also increased 8.6 percent to $43.52 billion from $40.7 billion from a year earlier. Exports last month rose only one percent to $5.32 billion from August last year while imports fell 2.3 percent to $5.63 billion.

Seoul, Beijing Soon May Exchange Trade Offices

SK2309015190 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Beijing (YONHAP)—South Korea and China is likely to exchange trade offices soon following the Beijing Asian Games, former state minister for political affairs Pak Chol-on said Friday.

Pak said he was making the prediction based on a contact with a Chinese official.

"I exchanged views broadly on issues to be discussed later, such as Korea-China and inter-Korean matters, with the Chinese official," said Pak, who declined to reveal the official's name.

"So far Seoul insisted on opening a governmental trade office in the other country, while Beijing wanted to have it on a private level. But Beijing now is positively reacting to the idea of exchanging private offices that perform consular functions. Considering this change, their establishment appears to be possible sooner or later," he said.

Pak did not exclude the possibility of meeting North Korean Vice President Yi Chong-ok, the highest-ranking official attending the Beijing Asian Games from Pyongyang.

"I can't give an immediate contact on that as I have to take consideration of China. I am going to see how things go," he said when asked if he planned to meet Yi.

Pak, a lawmaker of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, is scheduled to stay in Beijing till Oct. 1.

Kenyan Envoy Calls Moi Visit 'Great Success'

SK2309013690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] The Kenyan ambassador has described President Daniel arap Moi's visit to Korea early last week as a "great success" as it offered a capital chance to have top-level discussions on a wide range of ways to step up bilateral cooperation in political, economic, trade and cultural sectors.

Stephen K. Ole Leken also told The Korea Times yesterday that he hopes Moi's four-day state visit will give a fresh impetus to the expansion of trade, now in favor of Korea, in particular, as well as the strengthening of ties in overall fields.

"President Moi and his delegation were greatly impressed by the rapid industrialization and miraculous economic growth which Korea has achieved in short period," he said of their inspection of huge production plants in the industrial cities of Pusan and nearby Ulsan.

"It started in bad conditions—from the ruins left behind by a war. We can take some valuable lessons from Korea's economic development. It seems very relevant to our economic scene," said Leken resident in Tokyo shortly before departing for Japan after a week of preparations for and accompaniment to Moi's stay here.

He expressed "sincere gratitude to the Korean government and its people for their very warm welcome and hospitality."

Putting an accent on the need for further economic cooperation, he elucidated merits including good infrastructure and free remittance of earnings, calling for more Korean investments.

Shipbuilding Orders Rapidly Increasing

SK2309020490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 8

[Text] Shipbuilding orders are rapidly increasing, thanks to the boom of the shipbuilding industry both at home and abroad.

According to statistics from the Trade-Industry Ministry, shipbuilding orders during the first eight months of this year amounted to 4.92 million tons, up as much as 157 percent over a year ago.

In the meantime, the value rose 88 percent to $3.9 billion.

Mammoth oil carriers are leading shipbuilding orders.

The ministry predicted that shipbuilding orders for the year would easily surpass the projected 5.5 million tons worth $4.2 billion, setting the highest record.

The previous record was 4.1 million tons worth $3 billion in 1983.

By company, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Heavy Machinery received orders for 2.286 million tons during the first eight months of the year, topping the list.

Students, Farmers Stage Antigovernment Rally

SK2309011290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Students, dissidents and farmers staged show-of-force rallies nationwide yesterday in protest against the herculean ruling party and the opening of the domestic market to foreign agricultural products.

In 15 major cities and some 50 counties, tens of thousands of protesters hurling stones and firebombs clashed violently with riot police who fired tear-gas canisters to break up demonstrators. An estimated 22,000 police troopers were posted near rally sites, and sporadic clashes lasted until late in the evening in some cities, including Seoul, Pusan and Kwangju.

The powerful antigovernment protests were organized by a dissident coalition that openly vows to topple the No Tae-u administration for its alleged misrule and that opposes the market opening to foreign agricultural products. In defiance of a police ban, thousands of students joined forces with dissidents and farmers in the demonstrations, demanding the dissolution of the National Assembly and a boycott of the Uruguay Round negotiations.

In Seoul, activists of Sochongnyon (the Federation of Seoul Student Councils) battled fiercely with riot police, exchanging firebombs with teargas canisters. In the morning, students gathered on their campuses and tried to march in procession toward the Seoul City Hall Plaza. But most students failed to break the police cordon set up around campuses. Police made a crackdown on students and citizens in downtown streets who were suspected of taking part in the antigovernment gatherings.

Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives], the nation's largest student activist alliance, pledged Thursday that it would launch a full-fledged antigovernment struggle to collapse the No government. In the meantime, a farmer's activist alliance known by its Korean acronym Chonnong [National Federation of Farmers' Federations], staged rallies in protest against the government's negotiation for the Uruguay Round talks that, if completed to ward the end of this year as scheduled, are though likely to pose a grave challenge to farmers' life.

In Kangjin, Cholla-namdo, and Chongsong, Kyongsang-pukto, where farmer associations have found a strong foothold in the pro-democracy movement, rally organizers bombarded the government with harsh blame for its alleged maladministration in agricultural polices. Activist farmers also demanded the releases of their leaders who were arrested on Sept. 7 on charges of organizing illegal rallies.

* Kim Yong-sam Attempts Political Reorganization

902C0286 Seoul IRYO SINMUN in Korean
22 Jul 90 p 2

[Article by journalist Pak Tae-hui: "Operation To Thwart Kim Yong-sam's Second Political Reorganization Attempt"]

[Text] [Boxed item] Seized with excessive personal animosity toward PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] President Kim Tae-chung and an extraordinary thirst for the post of presidency, Kim Yong-sam, representative DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] supreme council member, is sinking into the quagmire of confusion, with his unique sense of mass politics benumbed.

It is a fact that the personal animosity between YS (Kim Yong-sam) and DJ (Kim Tae-chung) and their mind-set to hold each other in check are so strong that no one can intervene or mediate between them. This kind of morbid mentality eventually opened the way for former First Minister of State Pak Chol-on to carry out the first political reorganization, namely, the three-party merger, and now it is lending itself to incessant talk about the possibility of a second round of political reorganization.

More recently, it at last brought about the current political impasse between the ruling and opposition parties, which amounts to a political catastrophe. [end boxed item]

The 150th extraordinary session of the National Assembly was closed a few days ago amid the scorn of the entire public. It was the greatest drama ever in the political history of Korea played by "Goliath," an empty-headed giant, and "David," an imp. A Goliath in the person of the DLP, who is large in stature but small in brain, and a David in the person of the PPD, who is small of frame but full of mischief, enthusiastically staged the farce, ignoring the audience.

But, a slight insight into this drama reveals that it was nothing but a clash of inveterate animosities between two politicians, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung, a product of the grappling between the two Kims in their thrust for governing power for the next term.

Particularly, the reason the just closed extraordinary session of the National Assembly ended with failure to find a breakthrough, contrary to the general expectation, may be found mainly in the foolhardy strong-arm tactics of Kim Yong-sam, representative DLP supreme council member.

As a matter of fact, the PPD had mounted its offensive against the ruling party, leaving some room for a compromise in part of the agenda, with the expectation that a dramatic breakthrough might be found at the 11th hour in the just ended extraordinary National Assembly session.

DLP's Lingering Attachment to Legislative Compromise

First, as late as when DLP Assemblyman Kim Yong-chae came out to dwell on the necessity of revising the constitution to provide for the cabinet system, the PPD showed a flexible stand by saying "we are not opposed to the genuine cabinet system, but we are against the cabinet system presupposing a binary executive branch sought by the DLP as part of the means for staying in power for a long time."

This PPD response amounts to having indirectly shown its readiness to negotiate with the ruling party on the constitutional revision issue when the occasion arises. Commenting on this subtle response on the part of the PPD, Kim Chong-pil, a DLP supreme council member, made this deeply significant remark: "To begin with, PPD President Kim Tae-chung is a proponent of the cabinet system, isn't he?"

Moreover, unexpectedly the PPD stopped at raising only minor questions during the National Assembly Defense Committee deliberation of the bill of amendment to the Armed Forces Organization Law, the introduction of which was regarded as a move to lay the groundwork for a long-term stay in power under the binary executive branch system. In addition, the PPD deliberately excluded from the agenda for the four meetings of the three executive officers of the ruling and opposition parties the issues concerning the Armed Forces Law and the revised supplementary budget bill, which were expected to be the greatest issues in the last extraordinary session of the National Assembly, and instead placed the issues of the local government election law at the top of the agenda, thereby indirectly signaling the PPD's readiness for compromise to the DLP.

It was quite natural that this subtle attitude of the PPD generated in Kim Yong-sam, representative DLP supreme council member, an extreme sense of crisis. Kim Yong-sam, who always felt a sense of crisis, suspecting that President No Tae-u and PPD President Kim Tae-chung might be holding political negotiations behind his back, interpreted this flexible attitude of the PPD as evidence of some ongoing negotiations between President No and Kim Tae-chung, with the result that he was driven to make up his mind to disrupt such negotiations.

In fact, Kim Yong-sam and the RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] wing took great pains to isolate Kim Tae-chung and his PPD at the early stage of the last extraordinary session of the National Assembly. A typical example was the development over the issue of apportioning some of the National Assembly standing committee chairs to the PPD, an issue which, it was expected prior to the convening of the last extraordinary legislative session, would be the greatest stumbling block for the session.

Regarding this issue, the various wings of the DLP showed stands exactly opposite to their previous positions to the bewilderment of interested personages in political circles. The DJP [Democratic Justice Party] and NDRP [New

Democratic Republican Party] wings which normally were strongly conservative, insisted that some National Assembly standing committee chairs be apportioned to the PPD to create an atmosphere favorable to dialogues between the ruling and opposition parties, whereas the RDP wing took the hard-line stance that not a single seat be apportioned to the PPD, citing the goal of realizing responsible government as its justification.

Apportionment of Standing Committee Chairs Strongly Objected

In the final analysis, this difference in position caused a violent clash between Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, and Kim Yong-sam, frustrated in his effort to justify his stand, had to agree to conceding four standing committee chairs to the PPD.

On the day following the announcement on the apportionment of four standing committee chairs to the PPD, Kim Chong-pil made this confession to the press:

"I did not know that YS was so intensely on guard against the PPD. He said he would never, no matter what, concede even one seat to the PPD. If we were to go by what YS insisted, it was obvious that the National Assembly would not even be convened and it would be bound to end in rupture. It struck me that we should not let things drift like that.

"That is why I pressed YS for an explanation when I thought the time was ripe. I said to him: 'When the Republican Party sought to expel you from the National Assembly in 1979, I was the only one who voted against it, but do you know how much pain I felt? When I recall that occasion, I still feel sorry for you. We should not repeat the same mistake now simply because the PPD looks poor in stature, should we? That is why we should concede a few seats to the PPD.' In this way I at once lashed at him and cajoled him before he reluctantly agreed."

Kim Chong-pil added: I did not know how PPD President Kim Tae-chung knew about this, but when the two of us encountered each other in the lobby on the day the first National Assembly plenary session was held, he quietly moved toward me and holding my hand, made a friendly gesture: "I hope you will help me a lot in the future also."

As evident from Kim Chong-pil's testimony, it is a fact that Kim Yong-sam was anxious to isolate Kim Tae-chung. This is because in the judgment of Kim Yong-sam, in seizing government power for the next term, the inner party struggle with the DJP and NRDP wings within the DLP is important, but it is no less important to bring about the "sure" downfall of Kim Tae-chung and the PPD.

This inner mind-set of Kim Yong-sam did not manifest itself while there was no contact between the ruling and opposition parties, but it revealed its true colors in the 150th extraordinary session of the National Assembly, in which the ruling and opposition parties confronted each other with strength for the first time following the three-party merger.

Secret Negotiations Between Kim Yun-hwan, Kim Won-ki

According to the prevailing view among political observers, the last extraordinary session of the National Assembly was not supposed to have ended in rupture despite the incident in which PPD Assemblyman Kim Yong-chin committed violence in the Education and Information Committee, a variable which stimulated the DLP's thirst for leaving the rest far behind.

Given the failure to reach a consensus within the ruling party over the timing and methods of the local government elections, it was hardly expected for the ruling and opposition parties to reach a compromise during the just ended extraordinary session. Nevertheless, there was the hope that the DLP would at least inform the PPD of its readiness shortly to agree to the provision for allowing parties to nominate their candidates for local government elections, thereby averting a possible catastrophe.

In fact, during the last Chongwadae summit meeting between President No Tae-u and PPD President Kim Tae-chung, the two felt rapport toward each other, and subsequently First Minister of State Kim Yun-hwan and PPD Floor Leader Kim Won-ki reportedly held secret negotiations. But, the prevailing view among political circles is that Kim Yong-sam's strong intervention in this negotiating process precipitated an unexpected catastrophe.

Kim Yong-sam's so-called "strong-arm strategy" swung into action immediately following the incidence of violence in the National Assembly Education and Information Committee. Only a short time before did Kim Yong-sam's RDP wing freely implement its strategy to distinguish itself from the other wings and bring its reformist character into bold relief through their activities in the National Assembly plenary and subcommittee sessions. Assemblymen Kim Tok-yong and Pak Kwan-yong, Kim Yong-sam's close aides, speaking during interpellations at the plenary session, created such a critical atmosphere by pressing the administration with harsh questions that raised the fear that another intraparty rift might crop up. They did not hesitate to confront the administration with sharp questions in their committee activities.

However, an incident occurred in the Education and Information Committee on 7 June in which PPD Assemblyman Kim Yong-chin threw his nameplate at Assemblyman Choe Chae-uk, and as a result, the assemblymen from the DJP and NDRP wings shifted their attitude to an out-and-out hard-line stance. From then on the RDP wing was thrown into chaos. This is because contrary to the expectation of most of the assemblymen from the RDP wing, Kim Yong-sam began to press for a stronger offensive against the opposition than the other wings of the party were demanding.

RDP Wing Thrown Into Great Chaos

The chaos within the RDP wing manifested itself clearly in the DLP caucus which was held two days after the incidence of violence in the Education and Information Committee. During the meeting the assemblymen from the DJP and RDP wings demanded the expulsion of Assemblyman Kim Yong-chin from the National Assembly and his arrest on criminal charges, and the passage of the current controversial bills by the DLP alone, stressing that naturally, the PPD should be cured of its bad habit on this occasion.

To this, Assemblymen Hwang Myong-su, Sin Sang-u, and Hwang Na-chu of the RDP wing expressed the minority view that if the PPD were to be driven into the wall by expelling Assemblyman Kim Yong-chin and by other means, it could lead to an unexpected crisis; and for this reason they urged the PPD to exercise self-restraint to avoid an emotional handling of the case. Up to that moment, it was a reaction befitting the RDP wing.

But at the next moment the situation made a 180-degree turn as Floor Leader Kim Tong-yong and Kim Yong-sam expressed a hard-line stand. It looked as if things got out of control.

It was quite natural that members of the RDP wing looked flabbergasted. The Young Turks of the RDP wing, such as Assemblyman So Chong-won, took Floor Leader Kim Tong-yong to task saying that "it is not proper for the floor leader—who ought to try to soften the atmosphere even if everyone else cried for a hard-line stand—to be the first to get agitated." But, sensing that Kim Tong-yong was acting in accordance with the real intention of Kim Yong-sam, they did not press him any further. In short, they read from Kim Tong-yong Kim Yong-sam's calculation to take that opportunity to drive the PPD to the outermost brink of predicament in order to make negotiations between the PPD and Chongwadae impossible.

In fact, the subsequent course was headed straight toward an impasse as intended by Kim Yong-sam. With the logic that the DLP should fulfill its weighty duties, Kim Yong-sam instructed DLP assemblymen to handle the controversial bills by unilateral vote and egged on the RDP wing to play the role of a shock brigade in railroading these bills.

As a result, during the course of the standing committee meetings, assemblymen from the RDP wing, such as Sin Ha-chol, Mun Chun-sik, Kang Sin-ok, and Hwang Myong-su, fully played their role as a vanguard in the violent clash between the ruling and opposition parties. In the 14 July plenary session, 25 bills were rammed through the National Assembly in only 30 seconds, and this turbulent drama was also played under the command of Kim Yong-sam.

The unilateral vote on these law bills was not directed from the speaker's seat but right in the center of the assembly hall at the initiative of Vice Speaker Kim Chae-kwang from the RDP wing. According to belated reports, Kim Chae-kwang at first strongly objected to playing the villain, but Kim Yong-sam personally talked him into accepting the role. This proves that DP [Democratic Party] President Yi Ki-taek was right when he criticized that "it was a drama directed by Representative Kim Yong-sam, produced by Floor Leader Kim Tong-yong, and starring Vice Speaker Kim Chae-kwang."

Ready to Suffer Diminishing Support Base

Seen from his own perspective, Kim Yong-sam's operation to make Kim Tae-chung wither and die politically is considered successful for now because Kim Tae-chung and the PPD have taken such an uncompromising position that following their resignation as National Assembly members, they declared that they would launch an out-of-the-National-Assembly struggle. It seems to be the judgment of Kim Yong-sam that now that Kim Tae-chung has taken such an attitude, it would be difficult for him to enter into negotiations with Chongwadae on the issue of revising the constitution for the introduction of the cabinet system and other issues, and if the situation drifts like this, it would become impossible after all to put into practice the idea of revising the constitution to adopt the cabinet system. Needless to say, in this process, Kim Yong-sam will suffer a loss in the form of losing his public support to some extent, but he seems to have calculated that this kind of loss is unavoidable.

According to Kim Yong-sam's judgment, it is obvious that if the current situation drags on, the DLP candidacy for the next president will anyhow be narrowed down to him under the presidential system, and in this event, he will easily seize the reins of government through a showdown with Kim Tae-chung. In other words, he is confident that clearly he will be the winner in the fight with Kim Tae-chung, who has a limited electoral base.

Hole in Power Game Exposed

This game plan on the part of Kim Yong-sam can be read from his recent successive meetings with the key figures of the so-called anti-TK group, such as Yi Chong-chan, Yi Han-tong, Yi Chun-ku, and Sim Myong-po, as well as his plan to hold a hastily arranged meeting with former Minister of State Pak Chol-on next week in an attempt to drive a wedge and forestall the latter's offensive.

However, it is unanimously pointed out among political circles that there is a decisive hole in this meticulous game plan for grabbing power. Political observers say that, seized with his immediate ambition for the supreme power, he may lose his unique sense of mass politics and end up digging his own grave.

When all is said and done, Kim Yong-sam's foremost and only weapon is mass support. It was thanks to the mass support base he has extensively built up these 40 years, he was selected as a highly useful partner to the three-party merger and has been able to hold his own within the DLP despite the conspicuously weak numerical strength of his group.

But if he himself makes light of his support base and keeps on eroding it, dissolves it, what will happen to him in the future is as clear as daylight. This is because Kim Yong-sam devoid of mass support cannot be a threat in the least in the eyes of other forces; therefore, it is possible to remove him any time, and clearly Chongwadae will set out to promote cooperation with Kim Tae-chung, who has a broader mass base.

Minister of State Kim Yun-hwan recently said: "Now that YS has joined the DLP, the future fate of one No and three Kims will be in the hands of Kim Tae-chung. If Kim Tae-chung says 'let us die together,' then they have no choice but to die with him. That being the case, we should never drive Kim Tae-chung, who holds a knife in his hand, to the wall but search for ways to coexist with him." Kim Yong-sam should more seriously ruminate over the significance of this remark of Kim Yun-hwan.

* Slowdown of Exports Reported

902C0288 Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean25 Jul 90 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Hui-chu: "Failure to Capture Overseas Markets Results in Export Slump"]

[Text] Failure to secure the markets in the United States, Japan, and the EC (European Community) has created a continuous stagnation in trade this year.

Machinery, electronic equipment, and shoes have maintained relatively favorable export records. Due to the drastic decrease in automobile exports, however, the export industry as a whole has shown very little increase this year.

The import industry, on the other hand, reflects the general trend of inactive exports and increased domestic consumption of certain goods. Materials used for making export merchandise have been imported much less than before whereas imports of luxury consumer goods for domestic consumption have increased considerably.

The sudden increase in imports of consumer goods is the main cause of trade imbalance and the worsening trade deficit this year.

According to the article, "Trade Trend in June," published by the Tax Bureau on 24 July, our exports reached $29,753,000,000 in the first half of this year, a mere increase of 1.7 percent compared to the same period last year. On the other hand, imports reached $32,524,000,000, a jump of 11.5 percent from last year. This produced a trade deficit of $2,771,000,000 (customs clearance).

Classifying trade by countries, exports to the United States, our largest export market, were $9,198,000,000. This is a decrease of 7.2 percent from the same period last year. Exports to Japan fell by 10.4 percent to $5,621,000,000.

The decrease in exports to the United States and Japan has thus produced an overall slump in our export industry. This is due largely to our loss of competitive edge in trade owing to the devaluation of the Japanese yen.

Customs clearances show that our positive trade balances against the United States decreased from $2,397,000,000 to $896,000,000, a drop of 62.6 percent from the same period last year. On the other hand, the trade deficit against Japan has increased from $2,043,000,000 to $2,897,000,000, worsening our unfavorable trade balance against Japan.

An interesting point is that imports from the United States have increased by 1.6 percent whereas imports from Japan have decreased by 7.1 percent in spite of the yen devaluation. This reflects a special trade structure between our country and Japan. Imported items from Japan are mainly component parts to be used for our export merchandise. The general slump in our export industry, therefore, has brought a slide in the imports from Japan.

Another trend worth noting in the international trade arena is that our trade balance with the EC has changed from last year's trade gain of $368,000,000 to this year's trade deficit of $261,000,000.

Our imports from the EC have increased by 14.7 percent to reach $4,054,000,000 while our exports to the EC have gained by a mere 2.4 percent to $3,793,000,000.

Although the EC's restrictive measures against imports on various items are mainly to blame, our policy on trade with the EC also has some problems. The government has never come up with a constructive trade policy against the unified European Community. It is inviting its own troubles by trading directly only with individual members of the EC.

Classification by businesses indicates that automobile exports have been hit the hardest.

The rate of decrease in exports slowed down to 11.6 percent in June. The first half of this year as a whole, however, shows an $800,000,000 decrease in exports, a 32.9 percent drop from last year's figure. Compared to the first half of 1988, when automobile exports were up, the drop is as much as 42.3 percent.

The textile industry, whose exports are next to that of the electric and electronics industry, has reached $6,684,000,000 in its exports this year. This is a drop of 0.8 percent compared to the first half of last year. Wood products, such as plywood, have also slowed down, to show a decrease of 7.0 percent in its exports.

On the other hand, exports of shoes, the product of a labor intensive industry, have reached $1,905,000,000.

This is a 27.3 percent increase from last year. Exports of machinery also increased by 11.6 percent ($2,622,000,000).

The export of electronic equipment, in spite of weakened competitiveness owing to the yen devaluation, has reached $4,748,000,000 which is an increase of 10.5 percent from last year. Access to the East European markets and the China market, which is hosting the Asian Games this year, has compensated the decrease in exports to the United States. It is not clear if this favorable trend will continue in the second half of this year.

When compared to export figures, imports show even greater change over the past year.

A notable change is that imports for domestic consumption have increased rapidly.

In the first half of this year, imports for domestic consumption have reached $18,344,000,000, a rise of 17.7 percent from the same period last year. Imports of materials to be used for manufacturing future export items, have increased by a mere 1.0 percent, however.

Of the total imported goods, items for domestic use occupied 66.4 percent this year whereas the figure was 62.9 percent during the same period last year. This indicates that our trade balance has proportionally weakened that much.

Among the imported goods for domestic use, durable consumer goods such as large color TV's, refrigerators, and automobiles have increased by 52.1 percent.

Imports of capital goods also reached $11,913,000,000, an increase of 20.0 percent from the same period last year. However, 71.9 percent of these items are known to be for domestic use.

Imports of industrial materials and fuel, due largely to 12 percent increase in domestic consumption, have reached $17,465,000,000, a rise of 7.2 percent as a whole. Imports of fuel, including diesel oil, reached $4,656,000,000 which is an increase of 29.5 percent from last year.

Exports Classified by Business and Produce (unit: $ million, percent)

Business and Product	First Half of 1990	First Half of 1989	Percentage of Change
Food and Consumer Good	1,100	1,241	-11.3
Raw Material and Fuel	715	853	-16.1
Light Industry	12,003	11,715	2.4
Fiber Products	6,684	6,744	-0.8
Plywood and Wood Products	186	200	-7.0
Shoes	1,905	1,496	27.3
Others	3,228	3,275	-1.4
Heavy and Chemical Industry	15,936	15,420	3.3
Chemicals	790	661	19.5
Steel Products	2,622	2,600	0.8
Machinery	2,816	2,523	11.6
Electronic Products	4,748	4,293	10.5
Automobiles	800	1,193	-32.9
Others	4,160	4,149	0.2

Trading Classified by Nation (unit: $ million, percent)

Nation	Export			Import			Trade Balance	
—	1989	1990	Change	1989	1990	Change	1989	1990
U.S.A.	9,726	9,198	-7.2	7,329	8,302	1.6	2,397	896
Japan	6,181	5,621	-10.4	8,224	8,518	-7.1	-2,043	-2,897
EC	3,638	3,793	2.4	3,185	4,054	14.7	368	-261
Hong Kong/ Singapore	2,494	2,672	4.7	585	689	17.8	1,909	1,983
Others	7,190	8,469	15.8	9,825	10,961	11.6	-2,635	-2,492

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

American Bond Issue Attracts U.S. Investors

BK2309134890 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Malaysia's first American bond issue of US$200 million has met with (?success), clearly reflecting recognition by foreign investors in the country at a high credit rating. According to Malaysia's permanent mission to the United Nations, the Yankee bonds were very favorably received by a wide range of U.S. investors, including insurance companies and money managers from all regions of the United States. With the issue, Malaysia has successfully established its name in the world's largest capital market.

A Finance Ministry official said the Treasury officials had held a series of presentations on the issue for investors in Chicago, Boston, and New York. Receipts from the sale of the Yankee bond would be used for development projects.

Government To Put Resident Diplomat in Caracas

BK2009113790 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0842 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 20 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has decided to establish a resident diplomatic mission in Caracas, Venezuela, from next month, Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said Thursday. The decision was taken by the Cabinet following Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's visit to Venezuela last month.

Ahmad Mokhtar Selat has been appointed Malaysia's first charge d'affaires of the mission in Caracas. Malaysia's ambassador to Brazil, M.M. Sathiah, will continue to be concurrently accredited to Venezuela.

Abu Hassan told reporters after presenting the letter of appointment to Ahmad Mokhtar that the establishment of the mission proved Malaysia's serious efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to expand economic ties with South America. He also hoped that members of the Group of 15, which had yet to establish an embassy in Malaysia, would do so in the near future. Venezuela, he said, would be setting up its embassy here early next year while Nigeria would establish its high commission by the end of the year.

Singapore

Lee Gives Interview Before Leaving for USSR

BK2209131090 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister says the relationship between Singapore and the Soviet Union is much better than ever before. This is especially so after the visit of his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Nikolay Ryzhkov, in February this year. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew said there are [word indistinct] and promise in the relationship. He was speaking in an interview with Soviet TV and radio broadcasters.

On economic ties, Mr. Lee said as the Soviet Union (?adopts) a more outward-looking economy, there will be more trade, tourism, and investment. He believes substantially that [word indistinct] progress and development will be tourism and tourist-related activities, hotels, and air services.

On the current situation in the Soviet Union, Mr. Lee described it as a very [words indistinct]. He said the Soviets cannot get the rewards of the free-market economy in the free trade and competition without undergoing such change. They will have to brace themselves for the unpleasant change, but after a few years there will be rewards and things will begin to get better. Mr. Lee thought this method was [words indistinct]. The interview came ahead of Mr. Lee's five-day official visit to the Soviet Union. Mr. Lee leaves tonight.

Departs 22 Sep

BK2209052590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0438 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Singapore, Sept 22 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Singapore Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, Saturday left for a five-day visit to the Soviet Union for talks with Russian leaders.

Lee is scheduled to hold talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev on various international and regional issues, including the Gulf crisis. He was accompanied by his wife, First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng and Home Minister Prof S. Jayakumar.

The Singapore Foreign Ministry said the visit is at the invitation of the Russian Prime Minister, Nikolay Ryzhkov.

The Lee-Gorbachev meeting is the first for the two leaders since Gorbachev became president.

During Lee's absence, education minister, Dr. Tony Tan, will be acting prime minister.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Urges Accepting Additional SNC Seat

BK2209013990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk urged leaders in the resistance coalition to break the deadlock in peace efforts by giving in to Phnom Penh's demand for another seat on the Supreme National Council if Sihanouk is made chairman.

Sihanouk said in a statement issued from his Beijing home the resistance should accept Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen's demand that his government receive an "extra" seat on the 12-member Supreme National Council (SNC) if Sihanouk is elected chairman and 13th member.

If accepted by the four rival factions, Sihanouk's proposal would help revive the work of the newly-created council, which ended in a deadlock earlier this week during its first meeting in Bangkok over the conditions of allowing Sihanouk to become chairman. The council, formed during peace talks in Jakarta last week, has six members from the Phnom Penh Government and two each from the three resistance groups.

Hun Sen demanded that one member of the resistance give up his seat to the prince or that a seventh seat be given to a Phnom Penh delegate to preserve its equal representation on the council. The dispute over the question of the council's chairmanship forced the SNC meeting to adjourn inconclusively and put the whole peace process into disarray.

Bangkok-based officials from the two non-communist factions of the tripartite resistance coalition told THE NATION yesterday that Sihanouk's proposal was acceptable. The Marxist Khmer Rouge was not available for comment.

Sihanouk noted news reports that the UN Security Council had urged the four factions to send a unified delegation to the UN General Assembly to take Cambodia's seat. The wrangling over the SNC stalled selection of this delegation.

Cambodia's deadline to present its new credentials is Oct 18. But resistance sources said if the matter was to be settled sooner, Sihanouk would lead the SNC delegation to the UN meeting on Oct 3. The seat is currently held by the resistance but under the UN peace plan it is to go to the SNC until a new government is elected.

"I request to my comrades in arms in the Cambodian resistance ... to make a gesture which shall be appreciated by our people and the international community," Sihanouk said in his statement.

Sihanouk's appeal was addressed to Khieu Samphan of the Khmer Rouge, Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Sihanouk's son and head of his FUNCINPEC party. Sihanouk said he made the appeal to save the resistance from international criticism.

Sihanouk's absence from the Jakarta talks raised questions over his role in the SNC. The decision of his son, Ranariddh, to leave Bangkok during the middle of the meeting here this week also led to the meeting's abrupt adjournment. A Cambodian analyst said the prince's move was aimed at blocking Hun Sen from further demanding a higher position in the SNC. Sihanouk's statement did not mention what Hun Sen's role in the SNC should be.

Meanwhile, former premier Son Sann made his personal appeal to Thailand yesterday to help reconvene the SNC meeting in Bangkok as soon as possible. In a press statement, the former conservative premier called upon "all other members of the SNC" to "put aside their differences" and support his call to reconvene the SNC meeting. Son Sann said he had asked Thai Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan to "arrange for the resumption of the meeting of the Supreme National Council at the same venue at the earliest possible date."

On Wednesday, shortly after the collaps of the talks, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan told reporters that Thailand would not have any more to do with organizing the meeting.

When asked yesterday whether Thailand would host the meeting, Phansak Winyarat, the premier's chief adviser, said Thailand should consider the request with caution. He added if the meeting resumes it should include representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. A senior Foreign Ministry official said whether Bangkok decided to host the meeting again depended on reactions from the Cambodian factions, including Phnom Penh.

Initial reaction from the two noncommunist resistance parties to Sihanouk's proposal was positive and both expressed hope that the meeting could resume soon. Resistance leaders will meet with Foreign Ministry officials on Monday to discuss the proposal.

The FUNCINPEC did not officially respond to Sihanouk's call because Prince Ranariddh is still in France, but one of its officials said Sihanouk's position represented that of the party. "We are his followers, his position and our position are identical," said the official.

KPNLF's spokesman Ieng Muli said his faction accepted the prince as chairman and would let him decide on the council's number.

A Khmer Rouge official in Bangkok said all the group's leaders were in Cambodia and had no plans to leave that country soon. She declined comment on Sihanouk's proposal.

A Cambodian observer said the ball was now in the Khmer Rouge court. If it rejects the prince's proposal the faction would be condemned by the world community. But if it accepts, it will wind up with reduced representation on the council in relation to other factions.

VOK on Request

BK2209012090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk said he had asked the leaders of the Cambodian Natioanal Resistance [CNR] to accept the demand by Hun

Sen's party that another member from his group be included in the Supreme National Council [SNC] if Sihanouk is elected to the SNC chairmanship.

His statement dated 21 September 1990 said the samdech had asked Their Excellencies Son Sann, Khieu Samphan, and Son Sen, as well as His Royal Highness Norodom Ranariddh to allow Hun Sen's party to include a seventh member in Cambodia's SNC if Sihanouk is to be eventually elected as the SNC chairman. His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk said the move would clearly show the Paris international conference co-chairmen and the world that the CNR had goodwill, loved peace, and fully supported a national reconciliation. The samdech also said the concession did not mean that he was ambitious but was meant not to further discourage the hope of the international community supporting the CNR and in particular that of the long-suffering Cambodian people.

The first session of the SNC held at the former Cambodian Embassy in Thailand early this week was postponed on Wednesday [19 September] due to disagreement over the election of the SNC chairman.

Thailand Asked To Organize Talks

BK2209015090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, has asked the Thai Government to reorganize another meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC] at the same location at the earliest date.

In a message dated 20 September to Thai Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan, His excellency said: The Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok is the most appropriate venue for bringing the meeting to success, but the first meeting did not achieve the significant success expected. His excellency, however, added he was not too disappointed and considered the standstill a minor setback in the peace process. He hoped this would be overcome at the next meeting.

The conflict in Cambodia has continued for over a decade, so settlement needs more time, more support, and more meetings. This is why His Excellency called on the Thai foreign minister, the prime minister, and the Royal Thai Government to organize another SNC meeting. On Friday [21 September], the Thai foreign minister told Thai reporters Thailand agreed to organize a SNC meeting for the second time if the Cambodians needed to meet again.

VOK on Considering Appeal

BK2309072490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] According to the Cambodian resistance sources, leaders of the Cambodian National Resistance [CNR] will meet in Bangkok today in order to consider His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's appeal to the CNR to accept the demand voiced by Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh regime for another seat in the Supreme National Council [SNC] if the samdech is elected as the chairman and the 13th member of the SNC.

The sources said His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front; At Arik, political adviser of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia; Prince Norodom Ranariddh; and Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge, will meet this afternoon to consider the appeal launched by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and also the possibility of reconvening a new meeting of the SNC.

In a statement issued in Beijing on 21 September, His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk called on the CNR to endorse his decision to accept Hun Sen's demand for the inclusion of the 14th member from the Phnom Penh regime in the SNC if the samdech is elected as the chairman and the 13th member of the SNC. To date, there is still no reply from any Cambodian party to the samdech's appeal.

In the meantime, Phnom Penh radio said Hor Nam Hong of the Phnom Penh regime had been appointed foreign minister of the Phnom Penh regime by the Political Bureau of Heng Samrin's ruling Communist Party on 17 September. The appointment of Hor Nam Hong is probably a move related to the UN peace plan.

Factions Discuss Proposal

BK2309134390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 23 (AFP)—Cambodia's guerrilla factions met here Sunday to discuss a proposal by Prince Norodom Sihanouk aimed at ending a dispute with Phnom Penh and reviving the peace process, Cambodian sources said. Prince Sihanouk, the nominal resistance coalition leader, has accepted an expansion of a new authority of Cambodia's warring factions on condition he is elected chairman of the authority, the Supreme National Council (SNC). No information was immediately available on the outcome of Sunday's discussion between the partners in the anti-Phnom Penh coalition joining the Marxist Khmer Rouge and two smaller non-communist factions.

At a failed SNC meeting here earlier this month, Hun Sen, the prime minister of the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh Government, rejected the inclusion of the prince—not an SNC member—as the council's chairman.

The SNC, which is to take over Cambodia's U.N. seat from the Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla alliance, comprises 12 members, six each for Phnom Penh and the guerrillas.

Phnom Penh has insisted on equal representation, which has prompted Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, to propose an expansion to 14 members, with him becoming chairman and Phnom Penh being given an extra seat. According to Cambodian sources, a settlement of the dispute could lead to a reconvening of the SNC in the Thai capital with Prince Sihanouk attending, and a reactivation of a U.N. framework to end the almost 12-year war in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh and the coalition of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former Marxist ruling group, and followers of Prince Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann, have accepted the peace plan.

In keeping with the U.N. blueprint, the SNC is to devolve broad powers to the world organization to maintain peace in Cambodia and guide the country to free and fair elections. Officials from Mr. Son Sann's faction have said their group supported Prince Sihanouk's compromise proposal. The powerful Khmer Rouge has not endorsed it yet, but was expected to do so during Sunday's meeting of the guerrilla groups, the sources said.

Sihanouk, Ranariddh on Plan

BK2409074590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Sept 24 (AFP)—All factions in the Cambodian conflict have agreed to an expansion of a newly-formed interim authority for the country as proposed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk to break a deadlock between them, resistance and Phnom Penh sources said Monday. [passage omitted]

(And an official source in Phnom Penh said the government was ready to accept an SNC [Supreme National Council] composed of 14 members—seven each. But there was no immediate comment on the question of the vice-chairmanship.)

(In Beijing the prince, nominal leader of the tripartite resistance, thanked the guerrilla factions for accepting his proposal, adding "the ball was now in Mr. Hun Sen's court.")

(In a letter to his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who heads his guerrilla forces, the prince added that at Sunday's meeting the factions taking part had rejected the possibility of the SNC's vice-chairmanship going to Mr. Hun Sen. He added that the factions had agreed to offer Phnom Penh "a seventh seat in the SNC should Mr. Hun Sen's group accept that I be chairman and without the council having one or more vice-chairman."

(In a letter to his father, also made public in Beijing Monday, Prince Ranariddh said nominating Mr. Hun Sen as vice-chairman would be giving way to Hanoi's longterm objective of having Prince Sihanouk "as head of state and Mr. Hun Sen as prime minister.")

(Prince Ranariddh added that his father's proposal should not be seen as setting a precedent and called on the Cambodian factions to pledge "not to make any more changes to the composition of the SNC or to those documents already agreed on by all of us.") [passage omitted]

Mr. Son Sann was to call Monday on Thai Foreign Ministry officials to request a reconvening of the SNC meeting, the sources said. But a senior Thai official said a resumption of SNC discussions here would take place only if Bangkok had "airtight" assurances that the outcome would be successful.

Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge charged that Phnom Penh had been intensifying recruitment for its forces over the past few days. "From 10 September to date, the aggressor Hanoi authorities and the Phnom Penh party have intensified recruitment in all areas (of Cambodia) under their temporary control," the Khmer Rouge radio said in a broadcast monitored here Monday. This, the radio continued, showed that "Vietnam and the Phnom Penh party do not want to settle the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia through political means."

Hun Sen, Resistance Accept

BK2409004990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 90 pp A1, A2

[By Atthawibun Sisuworanan]

[Excerpt] In a move to reactivate the Cambodian peace process, the resistance factions yesterday agreed to give the Phnom Penh government an extra seat on Cambodia's interim ruling council in exchange for Prince Norodom Sihanouk becoming the council's chairman.

Khieu Samphan of the Khmer Rouge, former premier Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and Art Sarik of the Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] faction loyal to Prince Sihanouk met yesterday in Bangkok to discuss an appeal by the prince that the resistance accept Phnom Penh's demand for an extra seat.

Sources told THE NATION that the resistance leaders would approach Thai officials today about resuming the first meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], which broke down last week in Bangkok over the question of the chairmanship. "I think that if Thailand agrees, the meeting will be held within the next couple of days at the former Cambodian embassy (on Ratchadamri Road)," a resistance source said.

Sihanouk on Friday suggested that the SNC, which at present gives six votes to the resistance and six votes to Phnom Penh, be expanded to 14 seats. Sihanouk would take one of the new seats as chairman and the other would go to Phnom Penh. A Phnom Penh Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted by Reuters on Saturday night as saying that Prime Minister Hun Sen had accepted Sihanouk's offer.

The SNC, a key element in a UN Security Council plan to bring peace to Cambodia after 11 years of civil war, was set up two weeks ago after an unprecedented agreement between all four factions in Jakarta. The council is intended to represent Cambodian sovereignty while the United Nations virtually takes over administration of the country prior to elections.

Suwit Yotmani, the government spokesman, said yesterday that Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan is considering the resistance's request for a resumption of the SNC meeting. Son Sann personally appealed to Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan on Friday to help reconvene the SNC meeting as soon as possible. Son Sann's request has been handed to Chatchai, Suwit said. He quoted Chatchai as saying that Thailand would consider hosting the meeting again if all four factions agreed to it and there was a guarantee that progress would be made.

Despite the concession, the resistance leaders agreed yesterday that they would not agree to Hun Sen becoming the council's vice-chairman or the chief of the Cambodian delegation to the UN, according to the resistance sources.

The KPNLF issued a statement yesterday saying that the Phnom Penh government was trying to squeeze more concessions out of the resistance. "These conditions (if complied with) are tantamount to the surrender of the National Government of Cambodia, recognized by the United Nations," it said. The resistance government has up until now held Cambodia's UN seat.

Hun Sen denied in Bangkok last Wednesday that he wanted to be elected as the SNC vice-chairman or head the UN delegation.

The KNPLF statement also called on the international community not to recognize the Phnom Penh government as a legitimate representative of the Cambodian people, a move to try to prevent other nations from carrying on normal contact with the Vietnamese-backed government. Phnom Penh has stepped up contact with countries which formerly boycotted it since the peace accord was reached in Jakarta.

A KPNLF official told THE NATION yesterday that resistance guerrillas inside Cambodia, including those from the Khmer Rouge, are now observing a voluntary ceasefire on the field. He said the unofficial ceasefire has been observed by all sides since the Jakarta agreement.

There had been widespread speculation in the media in the past few days that fighting inside Cambodia would escalate because of the failure of the SNC meeting. Security sources at the Cambodian border also reported an unprecedented lull in fighting, though troop movements on both sides was reported. [passage omitted]

Consultations Held 24 Sep

BK2409133890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1252 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 24 (AFP)—Consultations were taking place here Monday to weigh the possibility of a resumption later this week in the Thai capital of talks between Cambodia's warring factions.

Cambodian guerrilla groups were discussing how talks with Phnom Penh should be conducted, exploring the question of attendance by their leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, diplomats monitoring developments on Cambodia said. The four warring factions—the tripartite guerrilla coalition and the Phnom Penh government—have all accepted an expansion of their newly formed interim authority in exchange for election of the former Cambodian monarch to the chairmanship of the body, the Supreme National Council (SNC), as recommended by the prince.

But Thai officials, still smarting from the collapse last week of the SNC's first meeting here, said talks between the Beijing-backed coalition and Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government could be resumed here only if a successful outcome could be assured.

Last week's fiasco resulted when Phnom Penh rejected a demand by the coalition, which joins the powerful Khmer Rouge with two smaller non-communist factions, that Prince Sihanouk, 68, become the SNC's 13th member and chairman. The prince, the alliance's titular head and the leader of a non-communist faction, stayed away from the meeting in Jakarta earlier this month at which the factions set up the SNC with 12 members equally divided between Phnom Penh and the guerrillas, accepting a United Nations framework to end Cambodia's nearly 12-year-old war.

The dispute over the inclusion of Prince Sihanouk paralysed the SNC meeting. But the prince has since proposed from Beijing, where he is currently staying, to accept Phnom Penh suggestion to break the deadlock by expanding the SNC to 14 members, seven for each side, with him as the body's chairman.

An official source in Phnom Penh confirmed that the government there accepted this arrangement. But there was no immediate comment in the Cambodian capital on the question of vice-chairmanship.

Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen, who leads his government's list of SNC members, had told a press conference here Wednesday just before leaving the Thai capital that he accepted Prince Sihanouk's chairmanship of an equally divided SNC, and added, "then the Phnom Penh side will be given the vice-chairmanship."

But in a letter to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, his son and the commander of his guerrilla force, Prince Sihanouk said the resistance alliance rejected the possibility of the SNC's deputy leadership going to Mr. Hun Sen, 39. The letter was made public Monday in Beijing.

According to diplomats, Monday's consultations among guerrilla factions here also touched on the question of whether Prince Sihanouk should turn up in the Thai capital for the beginning of a resumed SNC meeting or only after his designation as chairman had been formally endorsed at the meeting. If all problems could be overcome, there were plans for the meeting to be reconvened Thursday or Friday, they said.

A senior thai official said Bangkok wanted "airtight" assurances that the meeting would be successful.

Thai Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan told reporters that, if the meeting were to take place, its agenda should be limited to the agreed expansion of the SNC, Prince Sihanouk's election to the chairmanship, and appointing a delegation to be sent to the United Nations. The SNC is to take over Cambodia's seat at the world organization, held until now by the guerrilla coalition.

Khieu Samphan Holds News Conference 19 Sep

BK2209131290 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Sep 90

["Excerpts" of news conference given by Khieu Samphan, president of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, in Bangkok on 19 September on the outcome of the 18-19 September meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council—read by announcer]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Before answering your questions, I would like to present a number of our views and stances.

First of all, our Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] would like to thank their majesties the king and queen of Thailand, the Royal Thai Government, and the Thai people for their support to the Cambodian people's cause of independence. The Cambodian people will never forget those great deeds. We also wish to thank the Thai Foreign Ministry and the Royal Thai Government which have made full efforts in arranging for the Cambodian parties to meet here in order to complete the formation of the Supreme National Council [SNC] with the election of its chairman.

On the recent Bangkok meeting of the four Cambodian parties, we would like to present the following views:

We think we should adhere to and implement what we have already signed. We should not alter the document we have jointly agreed upon. Only by adopting this stance can our meeting achieve a good result and our peace process make headway. On the contrary, if condition after condition is added, it is tantamount to changing the agreed document and consequently nullifying it. We then have to start the whole process again. If we do not recognize our signatures acknowledging the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Jakarta joint statement, it will be like the Paris accord signed by Vietnam and the United States in 1973.

In Jakarta, our PDK accepted the joint statement that clearly specified all of us have fully agreed on and accepted the document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as the framework for the settlement of the Cambodian problem and for the establishment of a Supreme National Council. We are faithful to our solemn statement made to many international reporters and the world that we accept the two aforesaid documents. Our participation in the Bangkok meeting was carried out in this spirit. Now, what was the concrete development of the Bangkok meeting? I do not want to talk more on this, because you already know enough about it. What I wish to do at present is recall some of the main facts as follows:

1. Hun Sen's party linked the issue of electing Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to other issues, including the demand that Hun Sen be nominated as head of a delegation to the United Nations and as vice chairman of the SNC. The issue of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as SNC chairman should neither be connected to other issues nor subject to further discussion, because the five UN Security Council permanent members' document and the Jakarta statement clearly chose the samdech. Therefore, we should unanimously elect Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to the SNC chairmanship so the council has its chairman and can continue its work. We can discuss other issues later. This is the explanation for the first issue.

2. In connection with the first issue, Hun Sen also said: I agree to respect the document of the five UN Security Council permanent members and the Jakarta joint statement provided my condition is accepted. Apart from this, as you already know, there was the issue of the numeral composition of the SNC as well. The Jakarta statement has already enumerated the names of the 12 SNC members. If Samdech Norodom Sihanouk comes to assume the chairmanship, the number of the SNC will be 13. Why do we need to further argue about the number 12 or 13, and even the number 14? This is the process undertaken by Hun Sen's party at the Bangkok meeting. What is the meaning of such a move?

1) The move is a maneuver to reject Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman of the SNC.
2) It is also for invalidating the framework document of the five UN Security Council permanent members and the Jarkata joint statement.

I wish to conclude my statement now. Should you have any questions, please ask.

[Question] What is the ongoing move of the peace process?

[Answer] We think the UN Security Council's five permanent members' five-chapter document should be implemented in its entirety. In order to speed up the process, it is necessary to quickly elect the SNC chairman, and, as specified by the UN Security Council document, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk should have the function as the council chairman. Moreover, the Paris international conference should be reconvened as soon as possible so the United Nations can quickly undertake its task in Cambodia in keeping with the UN Security Council's five permanent members' document, which requires the establisment of a UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] as soon as possible. This is so the UNTAC can implement the UN Security Council's permanent members' document in its entirety and as soon as possible. To carry this out, the UNTAC requires all the Cambodian parties in the SNC to discuss the scope of their cooperation at the Paris conference.

As the four parties could not agree at the Bangkok meeting, how will they be able to arrive at an agreement at the Paris conference? That is why I said if all the parties sincerely accept the document forged by the five UN Security Council permanent members, they should unanimously accept Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the SNC chairman at the earliest date. The issue of the samdech's chairmanship is linked to the other issues. The way of raising certain conditions is only for rejecting or blocking the implementation of the document of the UN Security Council's five permanent members.

If the four-party Cambodian meeting in Bangkok fails, how will the failure affect the situation on the battlefield?

I would like to reaffirm that we fully accept the UN Security Council's five permanent members' document without changing or altering it, and we need the United Nations to come to Cambodia as quickly as possible to implement the document in its entirety.

As for the situation on the battlefield, I would like to inform you as follows:

On 5 September 1990, a Vietnamese military delegation accompanied by Pol Saroeun [Phnom Penh deputy defense minister] flew to Battambang Province. The Vietnamese delegation, including a Vietnamese colonel and headed by a Vietnamese major general has the following plan:

They decided to marshall and send two-thirds of Vietnamese forces together with Cambodian soldiers and forcibly drafted youths to launch an offensive for retaking Pailin. The plan—mapped out for September, October, November and later this year—has been carried out since 6 September to date. Our Cambodian National Resistance Forces [CNRF] have resisted the Vietnamese plan since then, and we will have to continue opposing it. That being the case, you can certainly determine the purpose of Hun Sen's party in raising certain conditions and denying the election of Samdedch Norodom Sihanouk to the SNC chairmanship. Is this not for blocking the United Nations' implementation of the UN Security Council's five permanent members' document to allow the Vietnamese aggressors to continue invading and occupying Cambodia?

[Question] In Your Excellency's view, how long will the deadlock over the election of the SNC chairman go on, and what is its connection to the Paris conference?

[Answer] 1. The entire Cambodian people and the overwhelming majority of countries worldwide believe only Samdech Norodom Sihanouk can assume the SNC chairmanship for the council to proceed effectively. The UN Security Council's five permanent members' document also clearly indicates Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will be chairman of the SNC.

2. If all the parties hold that only Samdech Norodom Sihanouk can be the SNC chairman, the samdech, according to the Jakarta document, will be the 13th member of the council. However, the question posed was not the issue of the 12th or 13th member, but, as I said, it was that Hun Sen did not accept the UN Security Council's five permanent members' document and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as SNC chairman. This is the crux of the problem. You already know the aim of the rejection by Hun Sen's party through my briefing on the development of the situation on the Battambang battlefield.

[Question] In your opinion, what is the approach to break the deadlock over the SNC composition in order to settle the Cambodian problem, and will the problem be solved at the SNC meeting or the Paris conference?

[Answer] I am confident that the samdech will inevitably be chosen as the SNC chairman, that the SNC will definitely proceed toward the Paris conference, and that the UN Security Council's five permanent members' document will certainly be implemented without fail. No one can avoid its implementation. The UN Security Council's five permanent members' document is the most influential. It is the strength of the Cambodian people, the ASEAN states, the overwhelming majority of the UN member countries, and the world. Therefore, the Cambodian people's strength combined with that of the world will become a zealous force to compel those who obstinately refuse to comply with the document of the five permanent members to implement the document.

[Question] You said the Vietnamese began offensives on the Battambang battlefield on 6 September. At that time, high-ranking Vietnamese and Chinese leaders met in the PRC. So, what is the impact of the talks between the PRC and SRV on the Cambodian problem, and what were the topics of their discussion?

[Answer] 1. The business between the PRC and SRV has nothing to do with the Cambodian problem.

2. Vietnam always claims it has no right whatsoever to decide on the Cambodian problem because it has no influence on the Hun Sen party it has installed with hundreds of thousands of its troops since 1979. Can you believe this? Vietnam's argument that the group it has propped up in Phnom Penh with hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese troops and protected and nurtured for 12 years are independent. Can you accept this? Isn't it a trick? Since it cannot resist the weight of the document of the UN Security Council's five permanent members, Vietnam must pretend to accept it. In fact, Vietnam has rejected the document and ordered Hun Sen and the Phnom Penh group to refuse or to invalidate the UN Security Council document. Ladies and gentlemen, please make your own judgement.

[Question] Do you think Cambodia's seat in the United Nations still belongs to the National Government of Cambodia? What is your opinion on leaving the seat vacant?

[Answer] According to UN regulations, Cambodia—an indepedent and sovereign state and a member of the United Nations—should continue to keep its seat. This is the UN procedure. However, with our goodwill, we have decided not to occupy the seat. We are waiting for the delegation of the SNC.

[Question] Could you explain the importance of the SNC with 12 or 13 members?

[Answer] We have already pointed out that any change to the document accepted by all of us should not be allowed. Otherwise, the document will certainly be subject to further changes. This principle is of vital importance, since we have pledged to implement the UN Security Council document in its entirety without any alteration. If not, the document will be successively changed until it is completely shattered.

[Question] Where and when can the deadlock over the nomination of the SNC chairman be resolved?

[Answer] In our PDK's opinion, it would be best if the SNC meeting were held in Cambodia's territory. This would allow the four Cambodian parties to meet on the Cambodian territory and the Cambodian people to applaud and welcome the SNC headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. As such, the four Cambodian parties should jointly arrange a venue in Cambodia where the SNC can meet with the participation of the cochairmen of the Paris conference—Indonesia and France—and the heads of states or governments of the ASEAN countries, which have strived for nearly 12 years to bring Cambodia to this new stage. It would be best if the meeting could be organized in Siem Reap-Angkor. Angkor is the symbol of Cambodia, and the Cambodian national flag is represented by the Angkor Wat temple. If Hun Sen's party does not agree to the meeting at Angkor, we propose our liberated zones such as Pailin or Phnum Kulen [Siem Reap Province] as the venues.

VONADK on Phnom Penh Intensified Recruitment

BK2409030890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Short "article": "The Vietnamese Aggressors and the Phnom Penh Party Have Intensified Recruitment and Expanded the Military Training Center Because They Do Not Want to End the Vietnamese War in Cambodia"]

[Text] From 10 September to date, the aggressor Hanoi authorities and the Phnom Penh party have intensified recruitment in all areas under their temporary control. In Kompong Cham and Battambang Provinces alone, the Hanoi authorities and the Phnom Penh party have been intensifying their recruitment campaign. In some areas, the Vietnamese soldiers launched the campaign by themselves while in other areas the Phnom Penh side joined in the recruitment.

The new recruits are sent for training at Toek Chha in Kompong Cham Province and at Kbal Kmaoch and Chamka Chek camps in Battambang Province. The Vietnamese aggressors are also enlarging these three military training camps.

This intensified recruitment by the Hanoi authorities and Phnom Penh party clearly shows the following:

1. Vietnam and the Phnom Penh party do not want to settle the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia through comprehensive political means.
2. Vietnam and the Phnom Penh party have violated the Jakarta agreement that the Phnom Penh party itself signed on 10 September 1990.
3. Vietnam and the Phnom Penh party have not respected the resolution of the UN Security Council [UNSC] permanent members.
4. The aggressor Hanoi authorities have carried on their war and their occupation of Cambodia through the Phnom Penh party in an attempt to turn Cambodia into a Vietnamese province.

The Cambodian people everywhere are very upset over these activities of the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh party. The Cambodian people call on the world, particularly the United Nations, to continue taking measures to make the aggressor Hanoi authorities and the Phnom Penh party respect and implement the Jakarta agreement and the resolution of the five UNSC permanent members, thus enabling Cambodia to enjoy genuine independence, peace, and stability.

VONADK Carries More Political Slogans

BK2309074690 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 22 Sep 90

["Chapter One of Political Slogans"; for previous slogans, please see the article headlined VONADK Broadcasts Slogans Welcoming SNC, published on page 45 of the 18 Sep East Asia DAILY REPORT]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

12. Only with the samdech as chairman can the Supreme National Council [SNC] be complete.
13. The SNC should have the samdech as chairman to be complete and carry out various tasks to move toward the Paris international conference to comprehensively solve Vietnam's war of aggression.
14. The SNC with the samdech as chairman is Cambodia's sole legitimate body both inside and outside the country; there is no other state organization apart from the SNC.

15. All Cambodians in and outside the country are happy to fully support the SNC with the samdech as chairman and as Cambodia's only legitimate state body; there is no other state organizaiton.

16. The entire Cambodian people accept only the SNC with the samdech as chairman. The Cambodian National Resistance forces and the Phnom Penh side must respect the SNC with the samdech as chairman and should not side with Vietnam's state authorities.

17. All our compatriots and people should strive to appeal to get their relatives, who have been forced to serve the Vietnamese aggressors, to return home, because the SNC chaired by the samdech has been established.

18. The great current unity is to end Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia. This great national unity will in the future also serve the building and defense of the country, building the economy, and building each family's life.

19. Only when the UN Security Council's document dated 28 August 1990 is implemented can Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia be comprehensively ended. Only with the implementation of the Jakarta decision of 10 September 1990 can we move toward the Paris international conference to comprehensively discuss and end Vietnam's war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia. Only when the UN Security Council's resolution of 19 October [as heard] 1990 is implemented can we move toward ending comprehensively Vetnam's war of aggression.

20. The Cambodian people are in great need of independence and peace. The Cambodian people need independence; they do not want the Vietnamese aggressors to occupy Cambodia. The 28 August 1990 document should be implemented; the 1 September 1990 document should be implemented; and the 19 September 1990 document should be implemented.

21. Only when these three documents are correctly and comprehensively implemented can the Cambodian nation and people have genuine independence and peace, can great national unity be achieved, and can there be an opportunity to build the economy and the people's life toward prosperity.

22. The Cambodian people need independence. This requires that all Vietnamese aggressors be withdrawn from Cambodia under UN control. The entire Vietnames people also need peace and security to build their economy, life, and country toward prosperity and to escape suffering, hardship, and poverty. The entire world also wants Cambodia to have independence and peace. All Vietnamese aggressors should be withdrawn from Cambodia under UN control in accordance with the comprehensive Paris agreement.

23. Vietnam's administrative staff in villages and communes should no longer fight to serve Vietnam's occupation. We do not want the present Cambodia to become a second Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of south Vietnam]. We should return to our homes. All of us should accept and respect the SNC with the samdech as chairman, because it is the only legitimate body in Cambodia and in the world.

24. Acclaim and fully accept the decision of the UN Security Council issued on 19 September 1990. The 19 September 1990 resolution document of the UN Security Council should be implemented in its entirety.

Hor Nam Hong Assumes Post of Foreign Minister

BK2209133690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Sep 90

["Communique on the session of the party Central Committee Political Bureau"]

[Text] To more effectively implement the decision of the 11th session of the fifth party Central Committee and to increase the effectiveness of the party and state leadership in assuming the tasks of defending and building the Cambodian motherland in the new phase, the party Central Committee Political Bureau, at its session on 17 September 1990, decided to reorganize a number of top cadres in accordance with their capabilities and competence and the situation of the tasks ahead. These are as follows:

1. Ease the duty of Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, from the post of foreign minister.
2. Ease the duty of Comrade Ney Pena from the post of chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission to become vice chairman of the Central Control Commission.
3. Transfer the duty of Comrade Dit Munti from the post of deputy foreign minister and chairman of the Central Foreign Relations Commissiion to become chairman of the Central Propaganda and Education Commission.
4. Transfer the duty of Comrade Hor Nam Hong from the post of assistant minister of the chairman of the Council of Ministers to become foreign minister.

Phnom Penh, 22 September 1990

Reshuffle 'To Strengthen' Premier

BK2409073490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 24 (AFP)—Hor Nam Hong has been appointed foreign minister of the Phnom Penh government to allow premier Hun Sen—who also held the Foreign Affairs portfolio—to concentrate on his main functions, the official Kampuchea News Agency (SPK) said Monday. The decision to replace Mr. Hun Sen as foreign minister was taken at a Politburo meeting here on September 17 to let "Hun Sen... concentrate on his main task," SPK said.

In a further reshuffle, Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An was promoted to first deputy foreign minister, reliable sources said. One source also said Trade Minister Tang Sarim had retired.

One observer said the changes appeared to strenghten the position of Mr. Hun Sen, who has reportedly faced opposition from within the ruling Communist Party.

Mr. Hor Nam Hong, formerly minister attached to the premier's office, and Mr. Sok An are both regarded as close to Mr. Hun Sen and are experienced in foreign policy and the current Cambodian peace negotiations.

Mr. Hor Nam Hong, who was appointed Saturday, initially led the Phnom Penh delegation at talks in Jakarta earlier this month when Cambodia's warring factions agreed to the formation of a Supreme National Council (SNC) to govern Cambodia under a U.N. peace plan until elections could be held. He already belongs to the 12-member SNC which joins the tripartite resistance coalition and the pro-Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh.

The September 17 Politburo meeting also decided to transfer Politburo member Ney Pena from chairman of the Party Propaganda and Education Commission to the post of vice chairman of the important Party Control Commission, SPK said.

Dit Munti was transferred from his posts as deputy foreign minister and chairman of the party's Central Foreign Relation's Commission to take over from Mr. Ney Pena.

SPK Reports Talks With U.S. Diplomat in Laos

BK2209101190 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0434 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK September 22—Long Kem, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia to Laos, called a press conference in Vientiane on Tuesday to make known the results of his talks with the charge d'affaires ad interim of the United States in Laos.

The conference was attended by a large number of Lao and foreign mediamen. Ambassador Long Kem said that was the first meeting between the Cambodian and U.S. sides in Laos since the U.S. Government adopted a new change in its policy towards the Cambodian issue. The Cambodian-U.S. meeting created conditions for preventing the comeback of the genocidal regime in Cambodia and for future contacts between the two sides, he said.

He also briefed newsmen on the results of the recent informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta.

Soviet Diplomat Discusses Continued Assistance

BK2409124390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Sept 24 (AFP)—Soviet-Cambodian economic relations will change considerably from January but Moscow hopes to keep the volume of aid at current levels, a Soviet diplomat said here Monday. He added that Soviet military aid to Cambodia was "still going on" but that Moscow stood by its proposal to place a moratorium on foreign arms supplies to the warring Cambodian sides.

The Soviet Union and China, the main military backer of the three party resistance alliance, agreed early this month that the two sides should suspend arms shipments to Cambodia as part of a settlement here. But a final accord has yet to be finalised.

"There's going to be a lot of change," the Soviet envoy said, based primarily on Moscow's decision to conduct all trade and aid transactions in hard currency beginning January 1. The move has been prompted by severe economic difficulties in the Soviet Union and will affect many countries.

Fears have been expressed here that cutbacks in aid from Moscow and Eastern Europe could have a devastating effect on the war-battered economy.

The diplomat said there was no question of increasing aid to Cambodia but said Moscow would try to keep it at "more or less the same level." "The panic at cutting off of Soviet aid to Cambodia has been exaggerated," he said.

Two Soviet delegations have visited Phnom Penh in recent months to discuss future economic ties and at least one more mission is expected.

He added that the two sides would have to "finalise the principles on which our future cooperation will be built, and of course the figures for aid and trade."

Observers noted that Cambodian President Heng Samrin was currently in Moscow, officially for a rest and medical examination. But an informed Cambodian source said Mr. Heng Samrin was likely to discuss future aid and assistance ties with Soviet officials.

The Soviet official did not give aid figures for this year but said that total volume of bilateral trade, including technical cooperation, last year was worth about 120 million dollars, with Cambodia's exports making up about 20 million dollars of the total.

Phnom Penh relies on the Soviet Union above all for petroleum products, but it has started buying oil supplies with hard currency from other countries in the region. Petrol prices have soared in recent weeks due to the Gulf crisis.

Indonesia

47 SRV Refugees Reportedly Repatriated 7 Sep

BK2009041890 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 8 Sep 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta (JP)—Forty-seven Vietnamese boat people were returned home from Galang Island in Riau yesterday.

An official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told THE JAKARTA POST from Tanjungpinang yesterday that the Vietnamese left the island for Ho Chi Minh City on board Garuda Airways accompanied by a UNHCR staff member. The official, who declined to be identified, refused to reveal the total number of Vietnamese refugees to be sent home from Galang during the coming months.

Vietnamese Embassy officials refused to confirmed the repatriation of the refugees when contacted by THE JAKARTA POST yesterday. The Vietnamese Embassy announced here on Thursday [6 September], however, that a total of 305 Vietnamese boat people would be returned to Vietnam during the coming months. The embassy was quoted by MEDIA INDONESIA daily as saying 60 Vietnamese had been slated to board Garuda Airways in Hang Nadim Airport on Batam Island near Galang yesterday. The embassy said the 245 Vietnamese would be transported to Vietnam in convoys on Sept. 21, Oct. 5, Oct. 12, and Oct. 17.

Galang is presently home to 18,000 refugees despite its originally designed capacity to hold a maximum of 8,000 people. The number of refugees on the island reached about 3,300 by the end of last year.

The Vietnamese Government agreed to the repatriation after representatives visited Galang Island last July to interview those who were willing to return. [passage omitted]

Nuclear Experts To Study at FRG Institute

BK2109120990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1008 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Jakarta, Sep 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—The National Atomic Energy Agency (Batan) will send seven nuclear experts to the Nuclear Power International (NPI) in the Federal Republic of Germany to study and develop Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (A-PWR). The sending of these experts was in connection with the country's plan to set up a nuclear generating power plant, Batan's deputy director general for Nuclear Science and Technology Studies, Iyos Subki, told reporters here on Friday [21 September].

At least 300 experts will be needed for the operation of a 600 megawatt-capacity nuclear generating power plant, Mursid Jokolelono, the head of the Nuclear Study Center.

Iyos Subki said a feasibility study plan was still being worked out at present but Indonesia has set a target to construct it up in 1996 or 1997 in a location in the Muria Peninsula near Jepara, Central Java. The plant is expected to be operational by the year 2003, he added.

An NPI representative, K. Pernstich, said the NPI would bear the cost of study for the the seven Indonesian experts. The Indonesian experts who will learn in Germany and France will get an experience and an opportunity for the development of an A-PWR design which the NPI has offered to be used in the development of the Indonesian nuclear generating power plant.

The NPI, which is a cooperation project between German Siemens and French Framatome, has had an experience in the development of [words indistinct]. Besides NPI, according to him, there is still another company which has offered partnership, namely the Westinghouse from the United States.

The A-PWR is a low-risk design of a nuclear power generating plant so that its application is very safe. It only has a probability risk of one accident in million years, Subki said.

Military Chief Says Communism Main 'Threat'

BK2109140990 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Sep 90 p 16

[Text] Jakarta—Communism's resilience in China, Vietnam and North Korea in resurrecting the Marxist ideology is the No. 1 threat to Indonesia, Armed Forces Chief General Try Sutrisno said.

Despite its decline elsewhere, communism's ability to hold on to power in these countries has put it as a far more dangerous threat to Indonesia than the country's widening gulf between the rich and the poor, Gen Try added. According to him, Indonesia would face what he called "multi-dimensional threats" within the next two years in the run-up to the general election in 1992 and the presidential election a year after. The threats he cited were racial, religious and ethnic group conflicts. The military chief made this point when he appeared before a parliamentary commission on foreign affairs, defence and security on Tuesday [18 September].

Indonesia restored full relations with China last month despite reservations within the military. Throughout the years when diplomatic relations with China were frozen following a China-backed communist coup attempt in 1965, Jakarta has been enjoying close ties with Vietnam. Gen Try's remarks coincided with the growing rapprochement between China and Vietnam, a new trend which is expected to help resolve the Cambodian conflict but may pose a new security dilemma for South-east Asia.

During the hearing, Member of Parliament Marcel Beding said that in his view, the social gap was the most serious threat faced by Indonesia and not the declining communist ideology.

Laos

Peace Delegation Leaves Vientiane for Moscow

BK2109130190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] At the invitation of the [words indistinct], on 19 September, a delegation of the Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship with Other Nations headed by Sisana Sisan [words indistinct] left Vientiane Capital for Moscow to attend the seminar to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Far East region and Asia to be opened on 25 September. Seeing the delegation off at Wattai airport were Yuriy

Mikheyev, Soviet ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, and a number of cadres concerned.

Phnom Penh Role in Settling Conflict Hailed

BK2209121090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Sep 90

[PASASON article: "Role of the State of Cambodia in Settling the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] Many countries worldwide have highly appraised the role, prestige, and reputation of the State of Cambodia, even before the latest meeting of the Cambodian factions in Jakarta. This is because Chairman Hun Sen agreed to attend the meeting despite Prince Sihanouk's absence for health reasons. Chairman Hun Sen's participation in the meeting has significantly contributed to putting the meeting on the right track. During the meeting, the delegation of the State of Cambodia headed by Chairman Hun Sen exerted constructive and goodwilled efforts to make the meeting fruitful. Chairman Hun Sen was the one who rescued the Jakarta meeting.

Various countries have highly acclaimed these contributions of the State of Cambodia. The first reaction came from the United States as an expression of its appreciation for the State of Cambodia in this regard. Following the lobbying efforts made by representatives of the Phnom Penh and U.S. governments in Vientiane capital, the United States instructed its ambassador to Indonesia to hold talks with Hun Sen. Both Washington and Phnom Penh attached great significance to this meeting. After the Jakarta meeting, the United States dispatched an official team to Cambodia. The most prominent event was the meeting between the U.S. charge d'affaires and the Cambodian ambassador in Vientiane capital on 13 September.

At the same time, Thailand, under the leadership of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, has been trying by all means to support the correct actions taken by the State of Cambodia. Hun Sen was invited to stop over in Bangkok on his way home from Jakarta. Many countries have demonstrated their readiness to establish direct contacts with the State of Cambodia. It should also be noted that following the Jakarta meeting, foreign ministries of many countries, including China, praised and expressed their intentions to associate with the State of Cambodia as a member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia. In other words, the State of Cambodia has now established communications with the outside world. During every meeting, the State of Cambodia expressed its good intentions and willingness to accept Prince Sihanouk's request that the SNC meeting be held in territory neither under the control of the State of Cambodia nor the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Chairman Hun Sen proposed the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok as the venue for the first SNC meeting.

The road toward a settlement of the Cambodian conflict may be paved with difficulties and confusion. The SNC members, with their strong determination, will be able to achieve their desired goal.

Oil Company Director Notes Increase in Prices

BK2009122190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Comrade (Sisattanat), director of Lao Fuel Oil Company recently told a KPL reporter that some 70 percent of Laos' total oil imports come from socialist countries, especially the Soviet Union, through barter trade. This year the company has concluded agreements with the Soviet Union to barter Lao products such as wood planks, wood parquet, lead, coffee, and peanuts with oil worth some 6 million rubles. So far, the company has fulfilled most of [words indistinct]. The company director also disclosed that oil from socialist countries [words indistinct] better economic efficiency because it helps boost agricultural production and stabilize oil prices. He said: Oil prices in our country recently increased from 170 to 190 kip per liter because the price of oil on the world market had jumped from $13 to $25 to $27 per barrel. One barrel is equal to 149 liters. The company imports on average over 2 million liters of oil from Singapore every month.

Philippines

Manglapus on U.S. Forces Post-1991 Bases Access

BK2209115290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 22 (AFP)—U.S. forces will have only commercial access to their bases in the Philippines after the lease expires in 1991, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said here Saturday. Mr. Manglapus made the remark after the end of the second round of negotiations on the future of the sprawling U.S. Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base after 1991.

The American panelists in the talks have said they are willing to reduce the U.S. presence in this country but said they had reached no agreement on any of the facilities.

The Philippine side previously said they would seek a complete handover of operational control of Clark Air Base to the Philippines by 1991. The talks will resume here next month.

Mr. Manglapus, who headed the Philippine panel in the talks, said U.S. forces "can use the bases only on a commercial basis," as Subic is transformed into a ship repair facility and Clark being made into a commercial airport. The Americans would be allowed to maintain a military air transport command in Clark while U.S. ships would have access to the Subic ship repair facility "as a purely commercial operation," Mr. Manglapus said.

A similar "special arrangement on a commercial basis" would cover the Crow Valley firing range in this country which is presently being used in live-fire training by U.S. forces, Mr. Manglapus said.

'Understanding' on U.S. Bases To Be Reached

HK2309070890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 23 (AFP)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino said Sunday she was confident that Manila and Washington would reach an "understanding" on the future of U.S. military bases in the country.

A second round of talks on the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the two largest overseas U.S. bases whose lease expires next year, ended here Friday. Both panels agreed to meet here again next month.

"I am pleased with the progress that has been made so far at these talks," Mrs. Aquino said in her weekly radio talk show. "I feel confident that our two countries shall arrive at an understanding that will be mutually acceptable and mutually beneficial," she added.

During the talks, the United States proposed to retain its military bases in the Philippines through an extended transition period that would accommodate Manila's demands for sovereignty and commercial use of the facilities. Washington had proposed to retain Subic for a transitional period after 1991 during which parts of the giant facility would be used for commercial purposes.

The Philippines had demanded that it be given "sovereign control" of Clark soon after the bases agreement expires.

Mrs. Aquino said her government would look into the proposal for a "phasing down" of Subic and the commercialization of some aspects of its operations after 1991.

"The Philippine Government shall consider this proposal carefully and shall make its response at the proper time," she said. Mrs. Aquino added that "the welfare of the Filipino people will be the foremost consideration in any decision that will be made with regard to the issue of the U.S. military bases."

More on Results of Bases Talks

HK2409074790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1300 GMT 23 Sep 90

[From "Ask the President Program" moderated by Ed Padua—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Padua] During this past week, Philippine representatives met with their counterparts from the United States during the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks [PACT]. The objective of these talks is to widen and strengthen relations between the two countries. Another objective is to outline relevant answers to the issues of war veteran's rights, environmental problems, health, trade, debt management, science and technology and security.

Last Tuesday, several leaders of our government faced the U.S. representatives to discuss issues not relating to security. Some members of the team were Secretary Ceferino Follosco of DOST [Department of Science and Technology], Secretary Jose Concepcion of DTI [Department of Trade and Investment], Undersecretary Feliciano Gasis of DND [Department of National Defense], Gregorio Magdaraog of DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources], Ernest Leong of DAR [Department of Agriculture], Mario Taguiwalo [Department of Health], and Ponciano Intal of NEDA [National Economic Development Authority]. It was reported to me that the U.S. representatives are open-minded to the proposals of our leaders. The technical committees of both countries will continue to meet in order to study closely the details of these proposals toward a wider cooperation between the two countries.

[Aquino, in English] With regard to the issue of the U.S. military facilities, the Philippine panel confirmed its position that sovereign control over Clark Air Base, Wallace Air station, Camp O'Donnell, Camp John Hay and San Miguel Naval Communications Station should revert to the Philippines by September 17, 1991, as mandated by the Constitution. The Philippine panel also received the U.S. proposal for Subic Naval Base, which included a phasing-down and a commercialization of some aspects of its operations. The Philippine Government shall consider this proposal carefully and shall make its response at the proper time. [passage omitted]

Military Foils Bombing, Kills 3 in Muntinlupa

HK2409132390 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Sep 90 p 3

[By Joey Caburnida]

[Text] Soldiers yesterday killed three men trying to plant bombs near the Muntinlupa branch of the Citytrust bank, an affiliate of the American Bank Citytrust N.A. of New York, the military said.

The three men, who carried no identification papers, were believed involved in the series of bombings in Metro Manila since last month. They were killed on the spot in a pre-dawn 15-minute gunfight with members of the Special Operation Group of the Criminal Investigation Service [CIS] in front of the Citytrust bank along Madrigal St., Ayala Commercial Center, Alabang. No casualties were reported on the side of the 15-man CIS team.

Police said they recovered firearms and improvised explosive devices consisting of a time fuse, blasting caps, timer and two boxes of explosives beside one of the slain men.

The CIS group, led by Constabulary Capt. Julian Pantonial, said they accosted the men while one of them was planting a bomb outside the bank. The two others, acting as lookouts, immediately opened fire, touching off the firefight.

Caltex Office Bombed, De Villa Issues Warning

HK2209090790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 22 (AFP)—Five left-wing protestors hurled bombs at the offices of the local subsidiary of Caltex Oil on Saturday as the military chief warned that "rebel groups" might try to exploit the oil price hike that took effect Friday [21 September]. No one was hurt in the bombing incident, an apparent reaction to the hike in retail oil prices of about 29 per cent on Friday. The protestors swiftly fled after the blast caused by two homemade fragmentation bombs.

Military chief General Renato de Villa meanwhile issued a statement warning that "rebel groups (may) take advantage of the situation to ride on the emotions of the people to further their ends."

He noted that left-wing labor and transport groups have vowed to mount strikes and protest actions against the oil price hike. In recent years, right-wing military renegades have also taken advantage of oil price hikes to launch coup attempts, the bloodiest of which occurred in December last year. However Gen. de Villa assured that the military was "prepared to cope with any security situations arising" from the oil price hike, adding that security forces had been ordered to "arrest and file charges against anyone who provokes violence or engages in seditious activities."

The oil price hike took effect Friday as the government appealed for calm, saying it could not hold off a retail price hike amid the rising international price of crude caused by the Gulf crisis.

Explosions in Two Manila Luxury Hotels Reported

BK2309105290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 23 (AFP)—Two luxury hotels in Manila's financial district Sunday were rocked by explosions, causing minor damage and slight injuries to guests, hotel spokesmen and radio reports said.

An explosion was heard Sunday afternoon on the ninth floor of the hotel Nikko Manila Garden in Makati District, shattering glass windows which fell onto guests at a swimming pool on the third floor, hotel spokesmen said. Several people, including a male Japanese guest, were injured in the incident, a private radio station said.

Hotel officials said they were still investigating whether the explosion was caused by a bomb or faulty electrical wiring.

An hour later, a bomb with a timing device exploded in the nearby Mandarin Oriental Hotel, causing a fire which was quickly put out by hotel employees, radio station DZMM said, quoting hotel officials. No one was injured in the explosion, hotel employees said.

DZMM said a Filipino, identified as Manuel Castillo, had checked in to both hotel rooms where the explosion occurred.

The capital has been rocked by several minor explosions which the military blamed on right-wing military rebels, who have launched several coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino.

Further on Hotel Bombings

HK2409044790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Sep 90 p 22

[By Victor Vega]

[Text] Three bomb explosions occurred in Makati yesterday injuring two Japanese tourists and four children and destroying two floors of two first class hotels in Makati.

Makati police investigators identified one of the injured Japanese national as Tamiyo Ito, 39, of Tokyo. He suffered a big cut in the knee, police said. His two children suffered minor injuries and were taken to nearby hospitals. Their names were not immediately ascertained. The names of other blast victims were not also available yesterday.

Police said the first bomb exploded at 3:30 a.m. at the Don Jacinto Bldg. on De la Rosa St.

A security guard, Romeo Carlos, told police investigators that he saw an unidentified man toss a Molotov bomb, hitting the main entrance of the building. He added that the bomb thrower boarded a blue Toyota car which sped toward Ayala Ave.

Two other bomb blasts hit the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden and the Mandarin Hotel almost simultaneously at 3 p.m. yesterday.

Police reports said Ito and his two children were at the poolside of the Nikko Manila Garden when the bomb exploded on the ninth floor of the hotel. The other blast occurred at Room 402 of the Mandarin Hotel causing a fire on the hotel's fourth floor. Police said the floor was partially damaged by the blaze.

Police said one Manuel Osmena checked in at the Mandarin Hotel and occupied Room 402. The same name was also used by a man who checked in as guest of the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden Hotel.

Building Housing Belgium, Iran Embassies Bombed

BK2309120590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1107 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Manila, Sept 23 (AFP)—Unidentified men lobbed homemade bombs Sunday at a building housing the Belgian and Iranian embassies here as explosions rocked two nearby luxury hotels, police and radio reports said.

The incidents came a day after Armed Forces chief Renato de Villa warned that dissident groups could try to take advantage of a new hike in fuel prices to spark unrest.

More than 30 explosions have occurred in and around Manila in the last two months. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the military has blamed military rebels responsible for several coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino.

Two unidentified men in a car, seen cruising around the Jacinto building in the Makati financial district at dawn Sunday, threw homemade bombs at the structure, causing minor damage, police said. The building houses the offices of the Belgian and Iranian embassies, they said.

The suspects fled after a security guard fired at them, police said. [passage omitted]

Military on 'Standby Alert' for Protests

HK2409052990 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Sep 90 pp 1, 6

[By Cynthia H. Evidente, Arnold E. Belleza, and Allan M. Refuerzo]

[Text] All civil disturbance control units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] were ordered to be on "standby alert" yesterday in preparation for the nationwide strike by some transport groups today.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Renato S. de Villa issued the directive to the different AFP service commanders to avert any violence that may result from the nationwide "Welgang Bayan" [National Strike]. "The AFP is adequately prepared to cope with any security situation," Gen. de Villa said.

Classes in all levels have been cancelled in Metro Manila, and the southern cities of Cebu, Iloilo and Davao City, where disturbances are expected.

Workers from unions allied with the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno [KMU-1 May Movement] will stage walkouts and pickets nationwide in front of the companies they work for.

KMU sources told BUSINESS WORLD a sizeable number is expected to participate, but the labor group, which claims a membership of close to one million workers nationwide, would not say how many workers would actually be involved.

According to the same sources, the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide [United National Organization of Drivers] (Piston) and the Bus Industry Alliance (Busina), transport groups affiliated with the KMU, will also stage protest actions today. Over the weekend, Piston president Medardo Roda declared that the transport sector would definitely stage massive strikes today.

Expected to join Piston, which claims to have 25,000 members nationwide, are Busina, based in Metro Manila and the Alliance of Rizal, Marikina, and Cubao Operators and Drivers Associations headed by Boy Tamone.

Rollback

Nothing less than a price rollback will be accepted by the group, Piston officials said.

An official of the Department of Transportation and Communications [DOTC] yesterday said, however, nothing definite has been declared by the jeepney groups. He said a dialogue had been scheduled for 9:30 last night with Transportation and Communications Secretary Oscar M. Orbos, expected to arrive from abroad.

Piston vice-president Demetrio Osias in last Saturday's government-jeepney associations' dialogue held at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board [LTFRB], said that aside from the rollback two other issues will be pressed by the group. Other demands include the abolition of the ERB [Energy Regulatory Board] and the prosecution of ERB officials for acting contrary to the interest of the people.

No Unity

However, the jeepney sector as a whole failed to come out with a unified stand.

Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organizations-Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations president Bonifacio de Luna said his group will defer any striking stance, possibly until Tuesday. This, he said, should give President Aquino reasonable time to consider their petition for a rollback in fuel prices.

Another jeepney group, the Jeepney Operators of Metro Manila, Inc. and the Atendido Transport Cooperative said they will not be joining the strike.

The Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Phils. and the Pasang Masda [Federation of Manila Suburbs Drivers Association] said they will settle for fare increases to be approved by the LTFRB. The LTFRB has not made definite announcements regarding any fare increases. Petitions by bus and jeepney groups ask for a P1.50 minimum fare for the first four kms., and 40 centavos per km. for distances covering five kms. upward.

Measures

As this developed, both private and sectoral resources will be tapped today to fill up the expected lack of facilities due to the transport strike.

LTFRB chairman Remedios Fernando said that starting 5:00 a.m. today, some 257 buses will be deployed by various north and south provincial bus operators in Metro Manila.

As per arrangements with the LTFRB, non-aircon buses will be charging regular zone rates at p2.25 per zone, covering approximately seven kms.

Aircon buses, on the other hand, will be charging regular aircon rates following a partially deregulated scheme. Likewise, more than 200 government buses of the Metro Manila Transit Corp. and the Pantranco North Express, Inc. will also be deployed tomorrow in addition to the regular running fleet as part of DOTC contingency measures.

Strike

Details of the "Welgang Bayan" were still being worked out with other members of the Coalition Against Oil Price Increases (CAOPI of which the KMU is part) including the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [New Nationalist Alliance] (BAYAN), the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE), the Kilusang Mambubukid ng Pilipinas [Peasants Movement of the Philippines] (KMP) and other cause-oriented groups.

As of press time, leaders of the CAOPI were reportedly meeting to finalize action plans against the oil price hike at an undisclosed place "for security reasons," sources from the KMU said.

Gen. De Villa said civil disturbance control units are under instructions "to ensure the safety of our law-abiding citizens as they go about their normal chores."

Simultaneous to the AFP chief's directive, Philippine Constabulary (PC) Capital Regional Command (CapCom) chief Brig. Gen. Marino Filart has reactivated "Oplan Matimyas Metro" [operation full metro] to ensure the smooth flow of traffic in, and around the Metro Manila area and to guarantee the safety of other drivers not participating in the same transport strike who might be harassed by those joining the mass action.

Gen. Filart also gave his assurance that the members of his command will exercise maximum tolerance towards the various groups participating in today's strike.

Starting today, the CapCom will be dispatching some 200 additional soldiers to aid the 15,000 regulars of the PC-Integrated National Police presently assigned within the metropolis.

Military Placed on 'Red Alert' for Labor Strike

HK2409092790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Sep 90

[By Eloi Aquino] txt

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief General Renato de Villa has formally placed the whole Armed Forces on red alert status as of 0600 today, in response to the national strike by various militant organizations in protest of the new oil price increase. De Villa's directive was confirmed by Colonel Juanito Rimando, AFP spokesman. Rimando, however, clarified that the military's move was only to ensure peace and order in the face of such trouble. Rimando said the public should not be worried because the AFP and the Integrated National Police are very much prepared for any trouble that may be caused by militant groups, including the drivers and operators of public transport groups. With regard to the rebel soldiers' group, the AFP spokesman reiterated that this group has lost its capability to launch another coup d'etat. They are only capable of sowing terror, like the bombings in Metro Manila:

[Begin Rimando recording] So, that's it. The red alert was not only...[changes thought] This is a precautionary measure. And if you need our help, say trucks, drivers, security and civil disturbance control units, we are here. [end recording]

National Strike Fails To Get Widespread Support

HK2409101990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Report by Vic Pambuan and Eloi Aquino]

[Text] The welgang bayan [national strike] called for by militant groups of workers and jeepney drivers did not get widespread support. Reports from DZRH field correspondents indicate that there was an almost normal traffic situation with the exception of Espana Avenue to Quiapo as well as Rizal Avenue, where a shortage of transport vehicles was noted.

According to the Metropolitan Traffic Police only a few drivers participated in the said protest, called for by PISTON [United Organization of Drivers Nationwide] and Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement]. The welgang bayan is in protest at the unjust price increase for petroleum products.

Meanwhile, the government is prepared for the possibility that the militant groups will try to get the support of other cause-oriented groups such as GABRIELA [General Assembly Binding Women for Reforms], the LFS [League of Filipino Students], and other miltant groups.

Eleven persons affiliated with cause-oriented groups were arrested by members of Station 4 of the Western Police District [WPD]. Those arrested were members of the KMU, the LFS, and BAYAN [New Nationalist

Alliance], and were identified as Roberto Perillo Icasiano, Jose Pigollo y Mojica, Roderick Dario y Malilin, Ricardo Martisay Malimit, and a jeepney driver identified as Luis Falcanid y Simbayon. Students who were arrested were identified as Irma Casabuena, a student of the Far Eastern University [FEU], Jocelyn Salvatos, also from the FEU, Melissa Malicon and Ramon Mapa, both from the FEU, Ferdinand Tadena from the Mapua Institute of Technology [MIT], and Ian Guerrero, also from the MIT. They were arrested for blocking passenger vehicles at the corner of M. de la Fuente Street, where they also proceeded to burn large tires in the middle of the road at the corner of Espana and M. de la Fuente. Members of Station 4 of the WPD immediately responded to reports of the said incident and arrested the strikers, who were burning the tires in the middle of the road. Here is the report of Captain Cabasal:

[Begin recording] [Cabasal] We will be investigating them. At the moment, we are arranging all the documents and evidence recovered from them.

[Reporter] What did they do?

[Cabasal] They marched without any permit from the Welcome Rotunda up to the UST [University of Santo Tomas], where our men met them. But along the route, they burned tires and refused to let vehicles pass. This was no longer right and we had to act. We had to apprehend them so that we could bring the situation in that place back to normal. [end recording]

Menawhile, in a related incident, two high-ranking officials of PISTON were arrested this morning by police authorities. In relation to this, it is thought that the group which launched the widespread transport strike did not succeed when they were unable to paralyze transport operations today. Station 3 Deputy Commander Captain Renato Bugarin identified the captured men as Edwin Borromeo, 32, a resident of 37 Yale street, Cubao, Quezon City and president of the Cubao Driver's Association—PISTON Cubao Chapter, and his vice president, Mario Garvide, 38.

It was learned from reports that the two officials of the said group were captured at 0645 at the corner of Annapolis and Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City while they were meeting and placing barricades on the road to stop other vehicles from passing through. The suspects were caught in possession of subversive streamers and pamphlets, and because of this they were charged with illegal assembly and coercion.

Military Issues Discussed on TV Program

HK2109134190 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in English 1430 GMT 20 Sep 90

[From the television public affairs program "Meet the Press" jointly sponsored by the National Press Club and GMA 7 with panelists: Journalists Jun Baustista, Ninez Olivares, Maritess Vitug and Jarius Bondoc, and guests: Brigadier General Arturo Enrile, Philippine Military Academy (PMA) superintendent, and former coup participant Captain Gregorio Catapang—live or recorded, place not given—italicized portion in Tagalog]

[Excerpts] [Bautista] Good evening. Tonight we mark a milestone: The revival of a tradition of the National Press Club—Meet the Press. [commercial break]

The Meet the Press committee of the National Press Club had a series of meetings to finally decide on what topic should be tackled. And it was decided that we focus on the military: The role of the military in our society at present. Is the Armed Forces still regarded as the protector of the people and the guardian of the Constitution, or has it become a threat to the very democracy it helped install in 1986?

Of course, to enlighten things, we have a panel here. Distinguished colleagues in the profession, I would like to start with a columnist for both the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and the BUSINESS WORLD, Miss Ninez Cacho Olivares. Then we have Marites Danguilan Vitug who is now connected with the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. And to complete the panel, we have Jarius Bondoc who is the managing editor of the DAILY GLOBE and who also writes a column for his paper entitled Observations. [passage omitted] And later in the show, we will have a ranking military officer who played a key role during the December coup and an officer, a field officer, who was once upon a time involved in one of the previous coups. [passage omitted]

Finally, we have our guests. I would like to introduce first the gentleman on my right: Brigadier General Arturo Enrile. He played a key role in the December coup. I do not know if you will recall, he was the officer instrumental in the crucial negotiations with the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] forces in Makati. I was there then. I was covering that. He was very accommodating to the media.

The other guest is Captain Gregorio Catapang, PMA Class of 1981, who, as we said earlier, was once upon a time involved in the initial coup. The panel will talk to him or ask him questions.

But right now, I would like to give the mike to Gen. Enrile. He has been sitting in the studio awaiting his turn to come up here and join the panel. And I am sure he has heard a lot of things said about the military, good or bad.

General, what do you think of these remarks?

[Enrile] I have been listening very intently to the comments and discussions, and I would say that at this point in time that the issues that are brought out are really relevant to the present situation that we have in the country today. *I would like to say that everytime the military is discussed,* the military is always taken as a whole, including those who are no longer in service. *The ultrarightists we talk about are people who are no longer in service.* Now, it is really very difficult to remove from the minds of people that even if we say that they are no longer military, people and the media in particular would always say that they are still part of the military. *So, the military gets a sort of misrepresentation as a whole. For instance, the bank robberies perpetrated, as newspapers claimed, by military people.* In many cases, these are actually perpetrated by military people, if ever they are involved there, who are already out of service. Discharged people. And I would also like to correct the impression that once they are discharged from the service, *their guns are not taken from them.* That is not true.

[Vitug] *But they still have guns.*

[Enrile] Not unless *there are those who leave the service, who went AWOL* so these are the people who bring along their firearms with them because certainly you cannot read the mind of some people. *They will just leave with their guns.* But other than that, most of the personnel of the military who are discharged from the service, their firearms were taken away from them. So I would like to clear up that impression.

Now, it is really very difficult to say at this point of time that...[changes thought] *even if I speak of the military* and I am talking of the military as composed of people still in the service. *It is said that the military is not united.* I would say that we are united. The chain of command is working and *if we say that the military is the threat to democracy, I do not think that is correct.* Because in all this while, when there are people who tried to change our government through violent means, it is the military-...[changes thought] what I mean is the people within the military who averted this ambition of people who would like to take over this country through violent means. So, it is very difficult to convince people but I am just saying right now that the military organization is trying its very best to put our act together. And we have gone some way already along this line.

[Bondoc] What is the prevailing reasons [changes thought] ...is it a naked power grab that drives these people to want to take power? *Is it still a power grab and nothing else?* Do they have valid complaints?

[Enrile] *If we are talking about valid complaints and issues, all of us, whether in the military or not,* I think there are really issues that have got to be corrected. Of course, not to the extent, in the case of military, of trying to put our foot down and you know, start allocating upon ourselves the job of running this country. *The military cannot do that.* I would like to be very, very frank with you. And we do not want to do that. *We do not want to do that.*

The military in general are really for democracy in this country. How we wish that the peace and order situation in this country is solved in the soonest possible time *so that we can return to our traditional role, particulary the Army...[changes thought] hopefully we can return to our garrison, our training areas.* What we will do is train for (?securing living conditions), when this country is beleagured as a result, probably, of some other nations' ambitions to annex this country [as heard]

[Olivares] I am thinking about this power grab thing. The rebels, at least their leaders, have stated more than once in interviews that they do not deny the fact that they are not the ones who can lead the country. They cannot run the country. They admit this. What they are saying and this has come out as a fact in interviews, what they are saying is that they are going to be the instrument or the tools of change.

What I am saying—I am not saying that it is not a power grab. All I am saying...

[Bautista] Excuse me, Ninez, because we are running out of time. Why do we not hear from this young officer, Captain Catapang? We will listen to his views and give you the opportunity to ask him questions after these messages? [commercial break]

Welcome back. As we said earlier, we will give the opportunity to Captain Gregorio Catapang, who is Class of '81 at PMA and who was once upon a time involved in the exercise of coup.

Greg, I hope you don't mind my calling you that. You were telling us earlier that somehow you got involved. *When was this?* Was this the first exercise?

[Catapang] The first one, was the August 1987 coup. I was implicated. I was assigned during that time at PMA. You might remember that the cadets issued a statement and there were demands that they wanted to be aired so that they also participated during the coup.

[Bondoc] *Is this the batch of Mitra?*

[Olivares] You participated in that sit-down strike or whatever.

[Catapang] *I was an instructor at the PMA then and I joined the cadets. We became involved because* we were pinpointed as one of the people who instigated them.

[Bautista] *Is it true that you instigated them?*

[Catapang] *What happened was that:* Because we underwent a court martial, we were not involved in it.

[Bondoc] *What I want to know is the faculty. How many of you were sympathetic to the corps cadets?*

[Catapang] *In the corps of cadets...*

[Bondoc] *People like you, how many were sympathetic?*

[Catapang] *Among the officers? Involved were Colonel Kapunan, Major Doromal, Captain Baltazar and I. We were the officers who were implicated then.*

[Bondoc] Was there really a plan at the time for the cadets to come down and join Colonel Honasan?

[Catapang] *There was no such plan because we did not have any means of transportation.* We just stayed in the PMA.

[Oliveres] Were the cadets just stopped precisely when the officers said: Just don't go out and join the Honasan force. *Just stay here.* Was that not part of the deal: To stop the cadets from coming to Manila to join up with the Honasan forces? There was so much sympathy...

[Catapang] *They had planned to join up,* but tactically, it was not possible *because the cadets' guns were then just one magazine. That would not last in a fight. At the same time, the cadets were thinking that they were the future officers of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]* and if we involved them as early as that, *they will be messed up already.* So it was not possible to do it.

What happened was that: They were saying that there were officers involved, so we were pinpointed as one of them.

[Bautista] You said you were court martialed?

[Catapang] Yes, we were court martialed.

[Bondoc] I think they were acquitted because you were given a command. But at the time, *you were probably involved because you believed in the motivations, the objectives?*

[Bautista] He has been acquitted.

[Bondoc] *I would just like to know. You may choose not to answer.* During the past exercises, were you still being enticed to join? And why did you not?

[Catapang] *There were many situations which provoked the officers corps and there were legitimate grievances.* Gripes. That is why [changes thought]...and these gripes keep on piling up and that was a year before Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue], so the officers were also thinking if we did it in '86, why can't we do it in '87?

[Bautista] *Greg, why is it the rebel leaders cannot be arrested? Are the soldiers reluctant to capture the rebels, especially you who are now in the field?*

[Catapang] *Those who went underground are now hiding and they probably do not go out. The problem is that some other officers may no longer be in Metro Manila and are somewhere else. I just can't say.*

[Bondoc] *But frankly speaking, and I am sure you hear this also from your fellow officers, that the rebels do make visits to you. Perhaps not you, but your friends are visited by rebels who ask for money or loans because being underground is difficult.*

[Catapang] *Someone did visit me but I had just been released from court martial. We were busy with the insurgency problem. So I said: Friend, I will see what I can do here because there is a big problem here. The people are suffering. They are suffering from the communists. So I did not concentrate. I said that I will concentrate on the insurgency.*

[Bautista] But there was no attempt to turn him in.

[Olivares] Was there an attempt on your part to turn your friend in, knowing that he was wanted and actively recruiting you?

[Catapanga] *He said that he was still organizing the YOU [Young Officers Union] [as heard]. It was still at an initial stage. We discussed what we could do for the AFP as junior officers. I said that I will see if I could attend the meeting but I was not certain because I did have the problem of the insurgency.*

[Bautista] *Let us turn to Gen. [General] Enrile because one of the reasons cited by Jarius for the reluctance to make arrests is the camaraderie.* And I think I failed to mention this. Gen. Enrile is now the incumbent superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy.

What is this special bond? This I think is one of the major reason that [changes thought] *you see, they are classmates.*

[Enrile] *First of all, I want to explain that it is not true that there is a refusal to make arrests. Not all members of the Armed Forces* has that particular job really, that all of us have to capture those who strayed from the path. Of course, it is very, very clear to all *that our oath of office stipulates that* we will fight all enemies of the Republic, whomsoever. *That whomsoever is important because it could be your father, brother, friend, or classmate.* Hence, if they are really considered as enemies of this Republic, then we have to do something about it. *If they should be arrested, then it should be done.*

[Olivares] As we are saying, not everyone is tasked to go after these rebels. However, *when you are visited by one, you did not turn him in.*

[Enrile] *If you are visited by one, for instance*—of course, it has not happened to me—*when they visit you, they will not come without some security. They are accompanied by others. What will a soldier do when he sees Gringo there? He cannot just approach him and say: You are under arrest. He most certainly is accompanied by others. It would be almost suicidal.* But given the opportunity that a soldier or an officer who is really well-meaning and who would like to help this country and has the means to do it, then I am sure he would do it.

The problem is, as you have said just now: What is that special bond? I think this is typical in other institutions, too, although it is very, very prevalent in PMA because they are together for four years as classmates. Somehow, these classmates become very, very close to each other to a certain extent that *they are even closer than siblings. So you cannot discount that bond. You know, before we had all these problems in the Armed Forces, even in my dreams I never thought that these things would happen, that one of these days, we would be feuding among ourselves. To tell you the truth, we are not used to imprisoning our fellow soldiers. There still exists what we call the human aspect* which could happen to any group.

[Bondoc] General, is this the reason why reform in the military is going so slow? I am sure there are attempts to reform but *it is going so slowly, hence the disaffection among the soldiers?*

[Enrile] *The reform we are talking about*, reform is always a slow process. *We should understand that the February revolution*, we must accept that, the February revolution, there were people who were happy about it. They were part of a group that was successful and the others were not. What followed was a crack which takes a long time to heal. *Take for instance a glass which has cracked.* Sometimes it takes a very, very long process to be able to return that glass into its original form.

[Bondoc] But you know that if you do not clean it up, *the threat will be there and more coups will take place.*

[Bautista] Before the general answers the question of Jarius, may we just pause for this short commercial. [commercial break]

Back to Meet the Press. As Gen Enrile said, *a crack appeared in the organization.*

Captain Catapang, what is the prevailing [changes thought] As you said earlier, you were involved. At your level, the young officers, what is the feeling among you? *Is there an ideology that is budding? Is there still discontent? Is there this crack among the older officers?*

[Catapang] *What I feel right now is the limit of tolerance of junior officers vis-a-vis corruption, mistakes are really very thin. They see the lieutenants who have become colonels today, yet the problems within the AFP still exist. Hence, the demand of the majority is to hold dialogues with junior officers on the problems confronting us; so that we can reach an understanding because we do have varying views and ideas. These junior officers, while still low in rank, there are still some 100 company commanders. If they come to the conclusion that there is discord on the understanding of issues in the country or in the military, they will be concerned. Thus, the important thing is to hold dialogues with junior officers to clarify the problems perceived by the junior officers.*

[Bautista] Thank you, Greg.

Gen Enrile, you are the father of these junior officers because they come from the PMA. In fact, that was the reason they asked you to mediate in Makati because he was the only one whom they recognized and trusted.

So, you heard the discussion, general. What can we expect?

[Enrile] *First of all, I would like to address those still on the outside or those who are thinking of carrying out destabilization moves. I hope that they think first of the welfare of our countrymen because it is really very difficult. For a job done by a few people, it is the majority of Philippine people who suffer. I hope that they think about it.* They should not burn their bridges yet. *I think there is still hope that with their help, we can improve our armed forces and help our country. It is sad to think that there are still some people who want to change our government through undemocratic ways.*

[Bondoc] *In their view, that is the solution.*

[Bautista] I am sorry to cut you, Jarius. We have to end our program because we have run out of time. I think that even if we disagree on lots of things, we all want peace.

We would like to thank our guests. Thank you very much, Gen. Arturo Enrile, Captain Greg Catapang. I have met him in the field. And of course, thanks to Ninez of BUSINESS WORLD and DAILY INQUIRER, Jarius Bondoc of the DAILY GLOBE, and Marites of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. Thank you.

This has been the maiden presentation, a revival of Meet the Press since we went off the air about four, five years ago. And we expect to be back two weeks from now. Until then, this is Jun Bautista. Good night.

Ramos Proposes Amnesty Program Expansion

HK2409044990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONCILE in English 24 Sep 90 p 1

[By Lito Zulueta]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos has suggested the expansion, possibly by legislation, of the amnesty program to attract more rebel surrenderers from both the Left and the Right. Specifically, Ramos wants further changes in Executive Order 350, issued by the President on March 5, 1989, which provides guidelines on the processing of amnesty applications. The order has already been revised to apply to renegades from the military and the police.

"The coverage ... may have to be expanded to cover more rebel returnees, both from the Left and the Right," Ramos said in a defense department paper. This may be done through an act of Congress and on the initiative of Malacanang, he indicated. "Any amnesty policy actions must now be jointly undertaken by the President and Congress."

A copy of Ramos' paper, submitted to the Cabinet committee on security (Cluster E) last Sept. 18, was obtained by the CHRONICLE from a Malacanang source. The paper indicated that the government was seriously considering offering amnesty to rebel soldiers.

Earlier, the government had declared a unilateral suspension of military offensives against communist rebels in areas affected by the July 16 earthquake and in Metro Manila. Hopes have now been raised for a similar arrangement with rightist rebels.

The President had granted amnesty after she assumed power in 1986 when she released political prisoners under Ferdinand Marcos and then again in 1987, shortly before her lawmaking powers expired with the resurrection of Congress.

Under the Constitution, any amnesty proclamation by the President requires congressional approval. Under present amnesty program, communist rebels and Muslim separatists are required to submit "manifestation forms," actually applications, which go to screening committees at regional or city levels, the first headed by the governor and the second by the mayor.

For military rebels, the applications are processed by a committee headed by the chief of the Civil Relations Office. Approved applications go to the President.

As of Aug. 31, 1990, position paper said, the program had made possible the return to the fold of the law of 12,226 rebels. Of these, 3,833 are communists and 8,393 Muslim secessionists. No former soldier or policeman, however, has applied.

Ramos indicated he wanted the executive order to cover political offenses. It now lusts treason, espionage, rebellion or insurrection, inciting to sedition, subversion and illegal possession of firearms and explosives, among others.

'129' Aguinaldo Supporters Surrender in Isabela

HK2409053390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Sep 90 p 8

[By Wilma N. Yamzon]

[Text] One-hundred-twenty-nine followers of fugitive former Cagayan governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo surrendered over the weekend to the military in Gamu, Isabela, the Department of National Defense (DND) reported yesterday.

The supporters of Aguinaldo, led by three commanders, pledged their allegiance to the Republic and the Constitution before Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos. The surrenderees, mostly former New People's Army (NPA) regular members who turned armed bodyguards of Aguinaldo and Civilian Home Defense members, yielded 119 assorted guns.

Brig. Gen. Orlando Soriano, Army 5th Infantry Division commander, said the surrender of Aguinaldo's men was made possible through Maj. Ricardo Billones whose command conducted a peace campaign to convince anti-government forces to return to the fold of the law.

The defense department said it will look into the possibility of paying the surrenderees for the guns they surrendered to the government. Under the "Balik-Baril Program [Arms Return Program]" surrendered guns, such as an armalite, may be paid P18,000 with half of the amount paid in materials needed for the start of a livelihood program.

The leaders of the group were identified as Eduardo Tallong, alias "Ka [Comrade] Pastor," Dante Salnda, alias "Ka Danny, and Marcos Echanique, alias "Ka Marco."

Records at Camp Aguinaldo showed that the surrenderees were NPA members who later participated in the government's counterinsurgency operations in Cagayan. They surrendered to Aguinaldo, then the Cagayan provincial commander, in 1984.

Aguinaldo reportedly used his followers in supporting plotters of past coup attempts. The same group reportedly protected Aguinaldo during the assault on a hotel in Tuguegarao. The attack resulted in the deeath of Brig Gen. [Brigadier General] Oscar Florendo.

In accepting the surrenderees, Ramos said Cagayun residents can now look forward to a more peaceful and progressive life.

Communist Guerrillas End 'Unilateral Truce'

HK2409080990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0750 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 24 (AFP)—Communist guerrillas vowed Monday to resume attacks against security forces across the Philippines, ending a two-month unilateral truce they declared in the wake of July's killer earthquake.

New People's Army (NPA) chief of staff Romulo Kintanar accused the government of duplicity for pursuing what he called offensive operations against the NPA after President Corazon Aquino ordered the military to cease attacks in Manila and in quake-ravaged areas 12 days ago.

"In the face of the government's insincerity and high-handedness, the NPA has no other recourse but to intensify military operations in those quake-damaged areas and in Metro Manila," Mr. Kintanar said in a statement to news agencies here. Mr Kintanar said the NPA would launch attacks "without prejudice to all relief and rehabilitation efforts."

The NPA, the armed wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines, which has been fighting the government for the past 21 years, declared a unilateral truce in quake-ravaged areas after the July 16 temblor which killed 2,300 people in the northern Philippines.

Military engineering units are among those rebuilding roads damaged by the quake.

The insurgents' political organization, the National Democratic Front, justified the NPA stand saying there have been "no concrete and positive steps by the government to move the peace process forward." It accused the government of bringing "more hardships to our people" through its move to raise domestic oil prices by 29 per cent on Friday and by the forcible dispersal of anti-U.S. protests by police.

Thailand

Chatchai Postpones Trip to Canada, U.S.

BK2409020090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Sep 90 pp A1, A2

[By Thammasak Lamaiphan and Thawisak Siphan]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan has indefinitely postponed his visit to the United States and Canada while his government takes a political risk by increasing oil prices a second time in response to the Gulf crisis. "We still have unsolved problems concerning oil prices at home," Chatchai said last night. The government first increased oil prices on Sept 12. He said present oil prices "cannot be maintained for long", and that the government would work out measures to ease the possible repercussions to the public.

The prime minister said his decision to postpone the trip was not prompted by local political problems. "There is no political motivation. I can assure you that I'm not afraid about politics," he said. Chatchai added that no agreement has been reached on how much retail oil prices should be adjusted. He emphasized that the next price hike must come after the government has adopted effective measures to prevent the cost of living from skyrocketing. He promised that the government would cut oil prices "immediately" after the situation in the Persian Gulf returned to normal and world oil prices came down.

Government spokesman Suwit Yotmani, who announced the postponement of the trip, said the governemnt was reconsidering its policy of regularly adjusting oil prices until the Gulf crisis ends and the flow of oil from the Middle East returns to normal. "The next price adjustment would not be carried out in a series. There will probably be one (substantial) adjustment," he told a press conference.

Prime Minister Chatchai said on Saturday the government would try to sustain present oil prices as long as possible—a move which would cost the administration about Bt100 million a day. But highly-placed government sources said last week that the government was pondering a major increase in oil prices—of between Bt1.50-Bt2 per litre.

Suwit said the government is using up its Oil Fund - a tool to stabilize the price of petroleum—"and consultations are going on" on how and when oil prices should be raised. "Increasing oil prices is a government decision. We won't allow a shortage of oil to occur," he said. On Sept 12, the government decided to increase retail oil prices by 30 stang (Bt0.30) a litre. The slight increase was generally accepted by the parliamentary opposition, though some leading opposition MPs [Members of Parliament] questioned the idea of regular adjustments in accordance with the Gulf situation.

Suwit said the government had realized that "a series of adjustments" would prompt the prices of consumer goods to rise unrealistically. Asked if the government would reduce oil prices if tension in the Gulf eased and the price of crude oil on the world market decreased from its current $37 a barrel, Suwit said: "Judging from what we have seen, the current situation may continue for months." [passage omitted]

Article Comments on U.S. Role in Gulf Crisis

BK2109165990 Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 10-16 Sep 90 pp 4, 5

[Article: "Questions for the United States on Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait"]

[Text] The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August has had a big impact on the world economy, especially the economy of the United States. It is calculated that for every increase of one U.S. dollar in the price of crude oil, the purchasing power of the United States will decrease by about $10 billion. If the price of crude oil is $25 a barrel, and if the oil consumption rate remains unchanged, the investment cost in oil will increase by about $100 million. Many countries, including Thailand, will therefore have to reassess their economic growth and inflation rates.

Certainly, the reason, as understood by the international community, given by the present Iraqi leader to dispatch military forces to overthrow the Kuwaiti Government, deserves a condemnation. The U.S. President has been praised for trying to protect the small country and the United Nations has executed its duties well. This is our general feeling based on mass media's reports.

We want to ask some questions and present some information in order for the Thai people to have a better understanding of the matter. We want to make it clear, however, that as lovers of peace and searchers of truth, we are doing this without any intention of excusing what Saddam Husayn has done.

On Saddam's decision to use forces to overthrow the Kuwaiti Government, information from some sources has stated that on several occasions the Kuwaiti Government has carried out secret operations to overthrow Saddam by hiring his soldiers to assassinate him; however, several soldiers were caught and executed. This has never been reported by any Western news agency. This could be another reason for Saddam's invasion and occupation of Kuwait in that unexpected fashion, apart from the other reasons understood by the international community.

We do not agree with Saddam's actions, which deserve condemnation. The world community has already carried out economic sanctions against Iraq. What is interesting is that U.S. President George Bush has done this quickly, thus making the United States merit the status as the leading Western nation.

Bush reacted immediately to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait by speedily sending U.S. military troops to reinforce Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, in a bid to contain Iraq's military expansion and occupation of strategic military positions and oil supply sources in these countries. This is because this region is the most important source of oil for the economies of the superpowers, especially the United States. The measures against Iraq are reasonable to a certain extent as long as the United States does not make excessive military reinforcements, which would create more conflict among the Arab countries.

However, if we thoroughly consider U.S. actions, we will see that it has not carried out any respectable measures in the eyes of the international community. This is because its speed and commitment in sending troops and equipment to Saudi Arabia completely contradicts its secret support of Israel's use of military forces in occupying Arab territories in 1967—the Gaza Strip, Jordan's West Bank, Syria's Golan Heights, Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and the al-'Aqsa Mosque east of Jerusalem. Instead of imposing economic sanctions against Israel, the United States heartily supported them.

In recent years, the United States has violated the sovereignty of several countries. Its actions were against the principle of world peace. The United States has invaded and occupied Grenada and Panama to set up new governments that it favors. The United States has also employed international sabotage, which it has criticized, in bombing the Libyan leader's residence. It seems that the Thai people have been given one-sided reports and comments written by the Western news agencies only. Until now, most Thais have accepted U.S. actions in these cases simply because they have never received reports from the other side.

Judging from the U.S.'s discriminatory treatment of other countries in emphasizing its own benefits rather than principles, the reasons for its speedy dispatch of its military, weapons and equipment to the Middle East is therefore suspicious.

Another interesting point is the United Nations Security Council, which the United States leads, has without any hesitation announced economic boycotts against Iraq. In the past this international organization has failed to take any action against the Israelis for their occupation of Arab lands.

Apart from this, there are questions for the United Nations: Why did the United Nations Security Council not impose economic sanctions against the United States when it invaded Grenada? Should this question even be raised if we accept the principle that a country must respect the sovereignty of another, and must not discriminate against other countries? We can see, therefore, whether the United Nations has treated countries fairly or whether it has been under the mandate of the United States.

Another interesting point is what the United States will do next in the Middle East conflict, and in what ways it will carry out its plans. It will be interesting to see if it will use peaceful means or military confrontation.

We would like to propose that the Middle East conflict be left for the Arabs to work out among themselves through peaceful diplomatic means. Because the superpowers are believed to have tried to create conflict in that region, the superpowers from both camps should therefore take their hands off the current Middle East conflict.

Considering the current situation, the United States should try to prevent the conflict from worsening. There is a belief that Iraq will soften its stand, thus making a more peaceful settlement of the conflict possible.

Additional Thai Workers Return From Iraq

BK2209085490 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's Information Department reported that another 230 Thai workers in Iraq had returned home yesterday. At this point, a total of 1,180 Thai workers in Iraq have returned to Thailand. There are now no Thai workers remaining in Amman, Jordan to send back home.

Regarding the remaining 903 Thai workers still working in Iraq because their employment contracts have not expired, the Thai Embassy in Baghdad and the Thai labor attaches in Baghdad have contacted the workers to question them about their well-being and have asked their employers to take care of them. The workers can return home as usual when their contracts expire and they wish to return home. The Thai Embassy will assist them.

Chatchai Denies Reports on Oil Price Increase

BK2309061190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday denied reports that a new round of oil price increases would be anounced tomorrow. But he added that the Government has prepared measures to control prices of goods if an oil price increase becomes necessary. Gen Chatchai said there would not be an increase in oil prices tomorrow as widely reported because the country still has cheap oil in stock. He also denied speculation that the expected increase would be about 2 baht. "It would not be that much. We still have to see the prices of crude oil which may drop," he said.

If the increase is necessary, Gen Chatchai said, he will see to it that the people are least affected and the new prices are maintained as long as possible. In this case, the Government had prepared measures to cope with possible effects. Food prices would be strictly controlled, he said.

The Prime Minister said he was to meet Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on and Finance Minister Wiraphong Ramangkun and other people concerned last night to find ways of stabilising goods prices. Asked if he was afraid the oil price increase would affect the Government's political stability, Gen Chatchai said he was not. He was more concerned about the people's economic problems, he said.

Adviser on Hun Sen Acceptance of Sihanouk Plan

BK2409022590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 90 p 7

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's policy adviser, Phansak Winyarat, said yesterday any movement regarding the Cambodian conflict is encouraging. Mr Phansak was commenting on press reports saying that Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen has accepted a power-sharing proposal by Prince Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia's National Supreme Council [SNC].

REUTER, quoting a Phnom Penh Foreign Ministry source, said Hun Sen is willing to go along with seating Prince Sihanouk as chairman of the SNC provided Phnom Penh is given another vote. The report from Phnom Penh came as the leaders of the Cambodian resistance in Bangkok were scheduled to meet yesterday to discuss Prince Sihanouk's proposal.

Cambodian sources said the Khmer Rouge had not yet endorsed Prince Sihanouk's proposal but was expected to do so at a meeting yesterday.

Mr Phansak said the report from Phnom Penh "was a new development" but added that "there is nothing concrete yet until there is an official communication between the two parties and the Thai Foreign Ministry." The policy adviser said Prince Sihanouk's proposal was an "expression of intention and can only be actualised by a statement from the three parties (resistance).

"All that is happening now, the repositioning of the respective sides, could not have happened without the Bangkok meeting. It is a process of ongoing diplomatic dialogue. It is gratifying that there appears to be movement forward because Thailand has been bearing the financial and human cost of the Cambodian problem for the past 11 years," Mr Phansak said. "Any movement forwards regarding the conflict is encouraging and we shall hope that the Cambodian problem is settled as soon as possible." Mr Phansak said the Cambodian conflict has cost Thailand thousands of millions of baht and affected the lives of Thais living along the border.

The adviser said that since the prince made his announcement, Ban Phitsanulok [Prime Minister's group of foreign affairs advisers] has had some communication with Phnom Penh about Prince Sihanouk's statement but "it appears that they (Phnom Penh) have to talk among themselves first."

Editorial Defends Thai Role in Cambodia Talks

BK2309090090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Sep 90 p B3

[Editorial: "Stop Blaming Thailand"]

[Text] Even before all Cambodian participants in the historic first meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] left Bangkok this week, many quickly began pointing fingers of scorn at Thailand and blaming Thai officials for the meeting's failure. One armchair Thai critic even faulted the Thais for not using a "round table" which would have given the impression that all the participants were equally important.

In fact, an oval table was used and the seats of the 12 Cambodian leaders were arranged alphabetically. Unlike in some previous Cambodian meetings, the seating arrangement was not an issue in the Bangkok meeting.

One frequently heard criticism was that the Thais, particularly those PM's [Prime Minister] policy advisers at Ban Phitsanulok, messed up the meeting with their zealous attempts to prod the Cambodians into settling their disagreements. This failure, the critics said, hurt Thailand's pride. Indonesia succeeded in hosting a meeting in Jakarta on Sept 10 in which the Cambodians agreed to accept an enhanced role of the United Nations in post-settlement Cambodia and the formation of the SNC to represent Cambodia's sovereignty.

Why couldn't Thailand host a successful Cambodian meeting like Indonesia?

To be fair, the failure was caused more by the intransigence of the key Cambodian leaders than by the Thai haste in hosting this meeting when the four warring Cambodian factions were not quite ready to end their differences. A good case could be made for holding the first SNC meeting as soon as possible in order to keep the peace momentum moving forward. The 12-member council has many urgent issues to tackle.

Thailand happened to have a Cambodian Embassy which had been vacant since mid-1975 that could serve as an ideal neutral meeting ground for the Cambodians. The four Cambodian factions liked the idea of holding the first SNC meeting at the Cambodian Embassy, which symbolically and legally is Cambodian "territory." All five permanent members of the UN Security Council also endorsed the idea. They, along with Japan and Thailand, want to see the SNC begin to function like it was envisaged in the Jakarta accord so that the international peace process can speed up.

Virtually all Thai agencies concerned actively took part in preparing and organizing the Cambodian meeting in Bangkok. The Army sent nearly 200 soldiers to help refurbish the embassy over the weekend. The Foreign Ministry, led by Permanent Secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, cooperated with the PM's policy advisers in liaising with the four Cambodian factions in preparing negotiation topics for the meeting. This may sound mundane but by no means unimportant because the Cambodians usually disagree on what would be discussed and in what order of priority. Four issues were tentatively listed: election of an SNC chairman, selection of a new Cambodian delegation to the UN General Assembly, negotiations for a ceasefire, and cessation of external military aid to all factions.

There was an agreement that Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the the three-faction resistance coalition, would be the SNC chairman. But the two sides disagreed on how he would fit into the SNC itself. The coalition insisted on making him the 13th member of the SNC, whereas the Phnom Penh faction of Hun Sen refused as that would make his faction, which holds six seats in the SNC, a minority. Hun Sen demanded an additional seat for his faction if Prince Sihanouk would be counted as the 13th member.

The Bangkok meeting began last Monday [17 September] even when there was still serious disagreement over the Sihanouk issue. And quite expectedly, it quickly bogged down as neither side would budge. The Phnom Penh side wanted the meeting to put this issue aside and move on to selecting a UN delegation. But the resistance refused. So the first day of the meeting ended in deadlock.

Under such a critical situation, it was only logical for all parties concerned to calm down and double their efforts in narrowing their differences. The Thais then came up with a proposal: let's accept Prince Sihanouk as the 13th member of the SNC and appoints Hun Sen deputy SNC chairman and head of the Cambodian UN delegation. But Prince Sihanouk's son, Prince Ranariddh of the nationalist faction, wasn't around to discuss it. He left for Paris on Tuesday night, ostensibly to enroll his son in a school.

Prince Ranariddh denied in a statement that he was boycotting the meeting. He simply couldn't postpone the trip, which he said had been postponed thrice. And he appointed an adviser to take his place in the meeting to show that he was not boycotting it. But his abrupt absence was inappropriate as it signalled his lack of willingness to negotiate. THe second day of the meeting was wasted because the remaining Cambodian leaders didn't want to talk to one another as Thai officials and others tried in vain to convince Prince Ranariddh to return to the negotiating table.

After Prince Ranariddh left Bangkok and the remaining Cambodian leaders refused to resume their meeting or discuss the Thai proposal, the meeting was adjourned indefinitely on Wednesday. Technically the meeting wasn't over yet. But it certainly failed to produce any progress after Jakarta.

Fortunately, Prince Sihanouk finally stepped in on Friday to offer a compromise. He urged his coalition to accept a trade-off in which he is elected SNC chairman and taken as the 13th member while the Phnom Penh side is given a seventh seat in the SNC as demanded by Hun Sen. But whether this proposal is acceptable to the Khmer Rouge—the strongest faction militarily in the coalition—remains to be seen. The Khmer Rouge has only two representatives on the SNC although in military terms, it is more powerful than the two non-communist factions of Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann combined.

Before leaving Bangkok Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan did put forth a very sensible proposal. He wanted the SNC to resume its meeting inside Cambodia, perhaps in Siem Reap which the Khmer Rouge would like to see declared a neutral zone to protect the historic Angkor Wat.

It's about time the Cambodians took their problems back to their country where they can talk and disagree to their hearts' desire. Thailand has done its part of trying to help settle the 11-year civil war in Cambodia.

It was obvious in the Bangkok meeting that most of the Cambodian leaders wouldn't listen to Thailand any more. So there is no reason for Thailand to host another Cambodian meeting because Thailand will end up with all the blame for the Cambodian failure, plus the costly accommodation bills for the Cambodian delegates, who have the habit of staying in deluxeclass hotels and dining in expensive restaurants, and arguing with one another over which one of them can sympathize with their poor war-ravaged nation the most.

'Second List' of Military Reshuffles Reported

BK2209031790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] The government yesterday announced a second list of the annual military reshuffle with transfers for 59 officers but these changes prompted little surprise.

The first list of this year's reshuffle was announced on Tuesday. In this reshuffle all armed forces commanders in chief retained their positions while 395 lower-ranking officers changed posts.

This second list, counter-signed by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, offered little surprise. Some senior officers were simply transferred to other posts while Maj Gen Uam Manorat of the Chunlachomklao Military Academy's Class 5 was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and appointed army assistant chief of staff in charge of the news division.

Their appointments will become effective on Oct 2. The appointments on the first reshuffle list will become effective Oct 1.

A military source said the reason for making two lists was that there was a large number of military officers seeking promotion. It was decided that promoting them would help build morale among officers, the source said.

The officers promoted also were transferred to inactive posts and would not take command of combat units.

The 59 officers on the list include:

—Lt Gen Chatchom Kanlong, also from Class 5 who was promoted to the rank of full general and will be attached to army headquarters.

—Lt Gen Khamron Kanchanakhom, from Class 3, has been promoted to full general and transferred from a post at army headquarters to an advisory post for army headquarters.

—Maj Gen Samphao Uttasathian, also from Class 3, was transferred from army headquarters to become chief of staff officers for the General Staff Department, replacing Maj Gen Loet Phungphak who was transferred to army headquarters.

—Rear Adm Kraichit Sirisombat, former aide de camp to former supreme commander Adm Supha Khotchaseni, was promoted to vice admiral and transferred from deputy director general of the Supreme Command's Armed Forces Information Office to acting chief of staff officers at the Supreme Command.

Adviser Criticizes U.S. Protest on Tobacco

BK2209032390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Sep 90 p 15

[Text] An adviser to the Prime Minister yesterday strongly hit back at the United States for its move to take retaliatory action against Thailand over its ban on imported cigarettes.

"Washington's move apparently runs counter to President George Bush's foreign policy to support multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade framework," Surakiet Sathianthai said in an interview. His comments follow BUSINESS POST's [business section of the BANGKOK POST] Thursday report on U.S. moves to list Thailand as a target for trade retaliation in an attempt to force open the cigarette market in Thailand.

Mr Surakiet said while the Bush Administration publicly announced its foreign policy in favour of the current Uruguay Round of GATT, its officials had completely disregarded the trade dispute settlement system under multilateral talks. He said Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan had made known the country's stand on the cigarette dispute during his latest visit to Washington. He said Thailand would wait for the outcome of GATT dispute panel deliberations scheduled for November, before taking any further action.

Pressure

Mr Surakiet was the second senior government official, after Permanent Secretary for Commerce Phatchara Itsarasena, to react to the U.S. move on cigarettes.

The adviser asked why Washington would allow its domestic cigarette industry to apply so much pressure even at the expense of American consumers. He said American consumers would eventually be affected as they would have to pay more for several imported items from Thailand, such as jewelry, canned tuna, tobacco, coffee, rubber, sugar, canned pineapple and baby corn, which are understood to be among Thai exports likely to be hit on the retaliation list. The list would cover products worth between $350 million and $500 million. "Such a trade policy is quite illogical and is seen as interfering with the Thai Government's policy," he said.

While describing the U.S. move as contradicting free trade under GATT, Mr Surakiet said Thailand deserved the right to wait for the dispute panel's ruling on the issue. If any written statement on the U.S. move can be obtained, Thailand will without hesitation complain to GATT's 100 member nations that it is being bullied.

Explosives Seized From Separatists in South

BK2109051890 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 21 Sep 90 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] According to a senior official of the Southern Border Province Administration Center, on 20 September the Narathiwat Provincial Police searched the home of the wife of a member of the separatist movement in Si Sakhon District, Narathiwat Province and found three kg of explosives. Three men who were present at the house were taken in for questioning.

The police had information that the separatist movement planned a sabotage activity in Narathiwat city on 23 September. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Meeting at UN With U.S. Officials 'Useful'

BK2109153190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] The third official meeting between Vietnamese and U.S. representives took place on the afternoon of 20 September at the headquarters of the U.S. Permanent Representation at the United Nations in New York.

Participating in the meeting for Vietnam were Le Mai, SRV vice minister of foreign affairs; and Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Vietnamese permanent representation in the United Nations. Representing the United States were Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon; Kenneth Quinn, deputy assistant secretary of state for Southeast Asian and Pacific affairs; and General John Vessey, U.S. President's special envoy in charge of humanitarian issues.

Amid an atmosphere of constructiveness and mutual understanding, both sides exchanged views for nearly three hours on issues of common concern, including the Cambodian issue and the process leading to the normalization of bilateral relations. Both sides also exchanged views on humanitarian issues, including the issue of Americans missing in action.

Speaking to newsmen after their meeting, both Vice Minister Le Mai and Assistant Secretary of State

Solomon assessed it as useful in creating more favorable conditions for relations between the two countries to develop in a positive direction. Both sides stated that their talks will continue. The time, venue, and level of the talks will be announced later.

Government Opposes Forced Refugee Repatriation

BK2009130290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 20 (AFP)—Vietnam said Thursday it still opposes the forced repatriation of boat people in Hong Kong, as talks opened here with British officials on how to handle the 40,000 boat people denied refugee status.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan met Thursday with a British delegation led by David Colvin, in charge of Southeast Asian Affairs in the Foreign Office, Vietnamese Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Ho The Lan said. Also present was Robert Van Leeuwen, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Hong Kong. "We do not accept the forced repatriation" of boat people, the spokeswoman said without commenting on the meeting, which follows talks early this month between the British ambassador here and the Foreign Ministry.

The British colonial government in Hong Kong suspended its forced return program after the first operation, involving 51 Vietnamese sent back last December, triggered an international outcry, particularly from Washington. Hong Kong is currently home to some 53,000 Vietnamese, of whom 9,000 have obtained refugee status allowing them to be resettled in third countries. Those who fail a screening process instituted by Hong Kong officials in mid-June 1988 aimed at sorting out genuine refugees from "economic migrants," face being sent back by force.

The British minister with special responsibility for Hong Kong, Lord Caithness, said Monday during his first visit to the colony that this group "must be returned to Vietnam as soon as possible."

Mr. Van Leeuwen said Wednesday in Hong Kong before leaving for Hanoi that he had no plans to discuss forced repatriation with Vietnamese authorities. The UNHCR opposes sending home Vietnamese against their will.

A total 4,349 Vietnamese have returned home from Hong Kong under a UNHCR-sponsored voluntary repatriation program set up in March 1989. Under an agreement with Britain earlier this year, Vietnam would accept 1,000 voluntary returnees per month, although only 400 opted to go back in August.

Three Sides Agree To Speed Up Repatriation

BK2309001890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2055 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi, Sept 22 (AFP)—Vietnamese, British and U.N. officials agreed here Saturday to speed up the repatriation of boat people in Hong Kong who have been denied refugee status, a Vietnamese official said. They agreed to continue to place priority on the voluntary return of boat people, but also discussed ways to repatriate those who do not volunteer to leave the British colony, currently home to some 53,000 Vietnamese.

"The parties discussed and agreed on modalities of repatriating those who, while not volunteering to return, are nevertheless not opposed to going back," the Foreign Ministry official said without elaborating.

A forced repatriation program was scrapped by the Hong Kong Government after the first operation to return 51 boat people last December triggered an international outcry, particularly from the United States.

Officials from Britain, Hong Kong and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had been holding talks here since Thursday with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan. Their talks focussed on what to do with the more than 40,000 boat people in Hong Kong camps who have been denied refugee status. London has repeatedly stressed that those deemed "economic migrants" must go home.

A joint statement issued after the talks said that "priority will be given to the return of volunteers," adding that "the aim is the early achievement of the rate of return of 1,000 per month from Hong Kong." The UNHCR agreed to play "an active role fully compatible with its humanitarian mandate" in the repatriation of non-volunteers who are not opposed to being returned.

British officials have complained that the rate of repatriation under a voluntary program was too slow. Under the program, begun in March last year, 4,361 boat people have returned to Vietnam.

The two sides concluded an agreement early this year for the repatriation of 1,000 boat people per month, but in August, the number returned was only 400. The joint statement calls for further consultations among officials of Vietnam, Britain and Hong Kong if the new plan does not achieve the numbers envisaged.

Of the 53,000 Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong, some 9,000 have qualified for refugee status and resettlement in third countries. Those designated as economic migrants under a June 1988 screening policy are not eligible for refugee status and face repatriation. Many of the boat people have not volunteered to go back, and both Hanoi and the UNHCR oppose forced repatriation.

'Voluntary' Repatriation Continues

BK2309030790 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 22—Negotiations on the issue of Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong were held here on September 14 and 21 between a Vietnamese delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan and a visiting delegation of high-ranking officials of the British and Hong Kong Governments and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The two sides discussed and agreed on procedures for accelerating the voluntary repatriation program as well as the repatriation of those Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong who are not (not) [as received] opposed to returning to Vietnam.

Supreme Court To Try Group of Traitors

BK2309161990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Sep 90

[Text] In Hanoi on 22 September, the Supreme People's Organ of Control held a news conference to announce a trial against Tran Quang Do and his accomplices on charges of betraying the fatherland and attempting to overthrow the people's administration. The Supreme People's Court will try this case in the first and second instances during 25-28 September.

A representative of the Supreme People's Organ of Control briefed a large group of newsmen from mass media agencies at the central level and in Hanoi on the background of this case. He said that on 22 August 1989 Dao Ba Tu, alias Tran Quang Do, led two armed Quyet groups comprised of 96 persons from a base in Thailand to infiltrate Vietnam through Lao territory. They set up a temporary base near the Vietnamese border area, to the southwest, to persuade the people to join them in carrying out sabotage activities against a number of key economic establishments in Vietnam in an attempt to advance toward overthrowing the revolutionary regime.

From 26 August 1989 to 2 October 1989 the Vietnamese and Lao armies and people annihilated 30 and arrested 38 members of these groups. On 10 January 1990, in accordance with LPDR law, the LPDR's Supreme People's Court tried the 38 arrested persons who invaded Lao territory under the command of Tran Quang Do.

Under an agreement reached by the interior ministries of the two countries, the LPDR has handed over the above-mentioned 38 persons to Vietnam for trial in accordance with SRV law.

National Assembly Chairman Returns From Laos

BK2109085390 Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 21—Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao returned here yesterday after a week-long official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Chairman Le Quang Dao and his party were seen off at Wattey airport by Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee [CC] and President of the People's Supreme Assembly (LPSA) Thongsing Thamavong, member of the LPRP CC and Vice President of the LPSA Maysouk Saysompheng, member of the LPRP CC and president of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association and other senior Lao officials.

A press communique was issued in Vientiane at the end of the visit. It says among other things:

"Lao President Nouhak Phoumsavan and Chairman Le Quang Dao held talks in Vientiane on regional and international questions of common concern.

"Chairman Le Quang Dao and President Nouhak Phoumsavan warmly welcomed the great achievements recorded by the Cambodian people. Proceeding from the principle of respecting for Cambodia's independence, sovereignty and self-determination, they highly valued the firm stance and good will of the state of Cambodia. They acclaimed the decision of Sept. 10, 1990 made by the Cambodian parties regrding the framework agreement of the five permanent UN Security Council members on a political solution to the Cambodia issue and the formation of the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC). They considered this decision a decisive step on the road leading to the reconvocation of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia. Members of the Paris International Conference, Vietnam and Laos will do their best to contribute to the success of the conference.

"Chairman Le Quang Dao and President Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed their deep concern over the strained situation in the Persian Gulf and called on all parties concerned to pool efforts to settle the problem through negotiations in the interests of the people in the region, peace and international security.

"The Lao president highly valued the fine results of the official friendship visit to Laos by Chairman Le Quang Dao and considered the visit a new development in the fraternal relationship between the Vietnamese National Assembly and the Lao People's Supreme Assembly and between Vietnam and Laos as a whole in the new period."

Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Journalists

BK2009133390 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Jul 90 pp 1-7

["Text" of talk given by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, at a meeting with Vietnamese journalists at the Hanoi Press Center to mark the 65th Anniversary of Vietnam Press Day]

[Text] Dear comrades: Of late, the Vietnamese people together with all of progressive mankind have organized diversified activities to commemorate the birth centenary of President Ho Chi Minh, a national liberation hero and a great man of culture. In the meantime, Vietnamese journalists have organized activities to commemorate the traditional press day, which marks the birth of THANH NIEN [YOUTH], the first revolutionary paper founded by venerated Uncle Ho 65 years ago. It was that very revolutionary spark kindled by THANH NIEN that has fanned up a burning revolutionary flame in the hearts of our patriotic young generations, workers, peasants, and intellectuals throughout the country, thus contributing to laying the ideological, political, and organizational groundwork for the birth of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Thus, from the very outset, the revolutionary Vietnamese press has closely linked its activities with our people's revolutionary cause. Since the birth of THANH NIEN 65 years ago, our country has covered a long and extremely glorious stage of revolutionary development. Our country has achieved independence and unification. Our people have enjoyed liberty, have freed themselves from oppression and exploitation, and have started building a new life. As far as the contingent of journalists is concerned, it has grown up in many fields both quantitatively and qualitatively, and has enthusiastically worked with the entire people in carrying out socialist construction and defense of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland. In the past, the publication of THANH NIEN was done in secret and with a very limited readership and rudimentary printing facilities. At present, in addition to hundreds of papers, magazines, and radio and television networks, numerous relatively modern and multipurpose audio-visual facilities operate throughout the country. These achievements are of very great importance and are a source of pride.

At this meeting today, on behalf of the party Central Committee, I would like to convey my cordial greetings and best wishes for good health to our comrade correspondents, editors, radio broadcasters, and professional cadres in charge of press management and training who are either present at this meeting today or are on work assignments at central and local press agencies.

Dear comrades, for many years now, particularly since the sixth party congress, the press and other mass media in our country have made new progress and have been welcomed and supported by numerous readers, listeners, and viewers. These changes for the better have been manifested mainly in the following domains:

First, the press has supplied increasingly rich and diversified information; has met the people's multifaceted spiritual needs ranging from important political issues at home to burning problems worldwide; and has covered economic, cultural, social, and national defense issues as well as the daily activities of all strata of society.

Second, while providing the readership with more information, the press has devoted efforts to introducing party and state renovation policies to the people. As far as this issue is concerned, the press must not only simply perform its duty of disseminating information but must also elucidate the effects of party and state policies and must reflect the people's creativity in implementing these policies, thus contributing to adjusting and perfecting these policies as well as to motivating the people to actively engage in socialist construction and defense of the socialist fatherland. I believe that since this is a very important task, we should all give our support and encouragement.

Third, the press has actively responded to the antinegativism campaign and has accurately reflected good examples and good models emerging in many different localities and areas of activity.

Fourth, the press has not only served as an organ of public opinion for party and mass organizations but has also become a forum of the people. The voice of the laboring people, the producers of material and spiritual goods, and the real masters of our society has been heard more and more directly and loudly through the press with every passing day. This is important because it reflects the laboring people's right of mastery and entitlement to political democracy in our society, a special feature marking the difference between our sociopolitical systems and others.

Fifth, the press and other mass media have tried to improve both forms and styles to make them more appealing to readers, listeners, and viewers.

In pointing out the main achievements mentioned above, I want to say that Vietnamese journalists are worthy of the trust placed in them by our party and people and of being an assault force on the ideological front in the national renovation undertaking.

I warmly congratulate and commend you, comrades, and hope that you will perform even more satisfactorily your function as pen-wielding fighters on the information front.

Dear comrades, perhaps you will all agree with me that we cannot content ourselves with what we have achieved. Revolution is always an unceasing undertaking to seek, create, and renovate; something that was considered progressive yesterday may become backward today. It is not enough just to do things; it is necessary that we do them better and better. This is all the more true because there have been mistakes and shortcomings in our work. In view of the revolutionary tasks facing us today and in the immediate future, reviewing one's work, correctly evaluating oneself, and improving upon one's abilities are indispensable factors for developing even more effectively the positive role of the revolutionary press. In this spirit, I would like to raise some issues as food for thought.

The biggest overall question that is being asked by press workers is how they should continue with the renovation process in their own field. As a matter of general principle, it is quite easy for us to agree that the press is part of the ideological work being carried out under the party's leadership. The goal of the press is to serve the interests of the fatherland and the people and to promote the renovation process with the aim of building and defending socialism in Vietnam and positively contributing to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress in the world.

The objective of the renovation undertaking in general and of renovation of the press in particular is to realize even more satisfactorily and effectively the targets and principles for socialist construction and to overcome the old, outmoded, or erroneous ways of thinking and doing things.

At one time the press emphasized the one-sided embellishment of information, painting only rosy aspects of the truth. At its sixth congress, the party demanded the press look straight at the truth, correctly assess the truth, and clearly tell the truth. As a result, since the end of the sixth party congress, along with pointing out good points, the press has paid attention to also pointing out shortcomings, wrongdoings, and corruption. Many negative cases have been detected and exposed to the general public, enabling investigating and responsible agencies to make use of their educational effect in deterring others from going onto the wrong path. This is what should be done and done better every day. Nevertheless, some of the media have recently tended to place more emphasis on reporting negativism, giving people only a gloomy impression of society. By the way, I would like to mention another tendency that has emerged not only in the press but also in culture and arts and theoretical work which negate the past. People of this tendency maintain that the press, culture, arts, and theoretical work have only illustrated the political lines. I think this is not all about the past. Yet, it would not be correct to say that to illustrate and explain policies is not the task of the press. Formerly, now, and in the future, this task is always necessary. The problem is how to make it attractive and persuasive.

What I said here above does not mean that the press should no longer report on negativism. On the contrary, the press should continue to oppose negativism even more resolutely. The main point is that the press should determine its targets and objectives and carry out its work with a fair motive and truthful, responsible, and proper attitude without speaking out of turn. In reporting negative cases, it must clearly show home addresses and avoid exaggeration and generalities or being "indiscriminate" which may cause confusion and vagueness. At the same time, we should not forget another reality that in life, more and more good examples, people, and deeds have appeared and will appear every day. Good models can be found everywhere and in all domains. Achievements over the past three years in renovation cannot be separated from the emergence and assertion of new factors in life. The press has carried out this task of detecting new factors but not in a careful and systematic manner. It has even detected the wrong new factors. Journalists should continue to go further in detecting, analyzing, and persuasively presenting new factors (including good and unsatisfactory ones, problems and difficulties, causes and experiences) for all localities to learn and spread the word. Just as Lenin asked us, we should know how to enrich practical experiences, make local experiences meaningful countrywide, and become "general and mandatory." We should not think like some comrades that negativism prevails in everyday life. Life also has its good and beautiful aspects! Moreover, methodically, "opposition" must be linked closely to "construction." We "oppose" to build and "build" to oppose just like a verse of Nguyen Dinh Chieu says: "Since hate also means love!"

The above-mentioned issue is closely related to the task of the press, which is to make all the lines and policies of the party and state thoroughly understood by all strata of the people. Aside from the common interests, each stratum of the people has its own interests and concerns. Depending on specific readers and listeners, the media will devise ways to present lines and policies accordingly. Making the lines and policies of the party and state thoroughly realized in life does not merely mean presenting the various texts but, more importantly, analyzing the evolution of lines and policies in practical life with all its rich and multifarious aspects, both satisfactory and unsatisfactory, errors to avoid and good points to promote, lessons and petitions. On this basis, the media will help supplement and perfect lines and policies. We should pay attention to both directions: On the one hand, we should generally analyze the various aspects of lines and policies implemented in a locality, a sector, or throughout the country. On the other, we should vividly describe the operational realities of all basic units together with specific people and deeds which can reflect the various relations and common and general binding rules. We may compile all well-written articles into small brochures for broad dissemination among the people so that everyone can be aware of them and act accordingly.

You all know that at present our country's struggle on the ideological battlefront holds special significance. Since socialist countries began facing a comprehensive and serious crisis, international hostile forces have considered our country a major target of their opposition and attack. They have intensively carried out their peaceful evolution scheme through very insidious economic, political, ideological, and cultural maneuvers. Together with the reactionary Vietnamese in exile, they have introduced into our country via radio, the press, letters, and leaflets many propaganda campaigns aimed at smearing our party, state, and social regime. They demand political pluralism and opposition parties. They incite bad elements and dissatisfied and opportunistic people to rise up. They deceive the credulous masses and separate the people from the party. Reactionaries of all hues who are still living in the country are plotting to rally forces to oppose the party and state. Their insidious tricks are to incite the people through demagogy to take advantage of the policies of our party and state on renovation, democratization, and the anti-negative struggle so that they can carry out their dark scheme of wiping out party leadership and overthrowing the socialist regime. Regrettably, some articles and addresses have recently appeared in the press, on radios and through recent informational and cultural activities and seminars in our country to brazenly or subtly negate party leadership and the achievements in socialist construction, reject Marxism-Leninism, and demand extreme democracy, seriously violating party discipline and state law. Through the press, radio, and television, some people have taken advantage of the people's tribune, fraudulently claiming to be the people's voice, in order to propagate articles carrying wrongful viewpoints or instigative contents to oppose the party and the state. Among these people are those who previously committed mistakes and were disciplined. Biding their time for long, now thinking the time has arrived, they hurriedly jumped out to give lectures of noxious ideas and viewpoints that have already been condemned by our society. Chiming in in this chorus are also some utopian or opportunistic people. Our journalists, especially editors-in-chief, editors, and news reporters, must be alert and vigilant to avoid being lured into these activities and must also prevent such actions.

We have not mentioned that in some localities, under the disguise of supplements for internal circulation, articles have been printed and passed by hand to propagate erroneous viewpoints against the party and the regime.

Realities or renovation in our country over the past three years have shed more light on a major lesson; that is, we must keep our society politically stable in order to build and develop the economy, culture, and social life. Political reforms must be carried out gradually and firmly in order to aid social and economic development. Our journalists' social responsibility is to support that correct orientation. The enemy wishes nothing but upheavals inside our party and society so that they can make manifest their wicked scheme of fishing in troubled waters.

In reporting international events, especially events in some socialist countries, some newspapers at the central and local levels have proved to have no stable political viewpoints. They have gotten news from the wrong source, distorted truth carried by some foreign papers and radios, and used it as news and commentaries. Objectively, they have served as propaganda mouthpieces for the reactionary bourgeoisie. It is strange that while conscientious and objective bourgeois journalists rejected distorted news, our journalists accepted them easily. Some people have now realized how immature they were in misunderstanding events in Eastern Europe at the very beginning. Saying this, I do not mean to prevent you from reporting foreign news. However, you should be careful in each case by taking into account its impact and effect on the knowledge and thought of the public. If need be, there must be an immediate commentary on the news as guidance for readers and listeners.

In the present complicated situation, both nationally and internationally, I would like to suggest that our mass media further promote the ideological task and militancy on this battlefront. We need more and better articles on specific topics; articles with greater combativeness and incisiveness in order to lay bare over time all distortions and reject all erroneous viewpoints wherever they come from, and persuasively defend the party's policies and viewpoints and strengthen the people's confidence in renovation and socialist construction.

As you all know, President Ho Chi Minh is the one who gave birth to the Vietnamese revolutionary press. As a great journalist, Uncle Ho always regarded press activities as revolutionary work, press articles as a revolutionary appeal, and press personnel as revolutionary cadres. The arguments found in the many press articles written by Uncle Ho are simple but sharp, though not laden with rhetoric. These articles made a strong impact. We should strive to learn from him in this regard.

There has been a general concern as to how to increase public interest for each newspaper and each radio or television program. This concern is legitimate because, for newspapers and magazines, interest attraction will help increase the number of issues in circulation and the accumulation of their profits and compensation for their expenses. The problem is how to achieve this aim. Naturally, we should improve the content and the format of newspapers, trying to write more tastefully in order to please the legitimate demands of readers. A newspaper must also have an aesthetic look and its printing must be clear. Worthy of blame is that certain newspapers tend to increase their attractiveness by using a different unhealthy method. For instance, they have attracted readers with love and sex stories. They have presented these stories in a sensual fashion that stirs up curiosity and sexual desire. Recently, a magazine even claimed to mark Uncle Ho's birthday by advertising on the front and back covers these story titles "The Culprit Has Fled," "Two Death Sentences for One Death," "Director's Love Letter to His Girlfriend," "Tears on the Wedding Day," and many other similar stories. Some of the titles are meant to be thrilling and exciting while some articles have exposed national secrets concerning the military and security situation and economic data. Should we agree to such "attractive" ways of reporting in newspapers? Genuine and serious journalists—a majority in the press circles—will surely not accept such ways.

In order to continue to renovate the press and enable our contemporary journalists to worthily live up to their fine tradition as a the revolutionary press, we must, as a basic task, constantly care for and cultivate the contingent of press workers. This contingent must not only be sufficient in number but also strong in quality and must have an ever larger number of outstanding, authoritative, and prestigious journalists. The quality of a journalist involves many aspects, ranging from his general knowledge to his professional skills, his morality, personality, and political quality, and his ability to promptly and sensibly grasp the situation and correctly arrange his ideas. I would like to point out here that with their important role of guiding public opinion and making their influence felt daily and widely by people of various strata, journalists must first set good examples in terms of political quality. This is also the heartfelt advice of Uncle Ho for journalists. He said: All press workers—

writers, printing specialists, editors, publishers, and so forth—must have a firm political stance. The political stance must come first. Only with a correct political line can we carry out other activities properly. I think that a correct political line will help decide various fundamental questions encountered by journalists such as what to write, to whom do they write, and how to write to most benefit the revolutionary cause. They must maintain a firm stance in the face of complicated changes and be able to anticipate the development of various events, and so on. Of course, to become a good journalist, one should have his political sense linked with his professional sense. The morality of a journalist is also no less important.

I would like to stress truthfulness here, especially in evaluating, commending, and criticizing. One usually says: "With love, everything is good, with hate all things become bad." Recently, some papers proved to have followed such an old saying. Following unclear motives, they have reflected events untruthfully. By playing up good points a little bit and playing down shortcomings just a tiny measure or vice versa, newspapers have already lost their required objectivity. Lack of truthfulness also results from unscrupulous behavior, failure to scrutinize and investigate carefully, or bad operational methods. No matter what causes might be involved, the harmful effect remains the same. They all cause an adverse impact on society and lower the prestige of the press.

I know that the Vietnam Journalists' Association and the various media agencies have a plan for remunerating journalists. I hope you will implement this plan. I think that the most fundamental thing is always self-advancement and the need for journalists to surge forward. They must learn from books, from realities in life, and from their colleagues. They must scrupulously draw upon experiences after writing each article. Then their skill will improve gradually.

Finally, I would like to speak further about party leadership and state management over the press. It has been affirmed that the press is placed under party leaderhip. This means that the press must operate according to party lines and concepts. The party must create conditions for the press to firmly grasp party policies and lines in each time period, train the contingent of key press cadres, and control the activities of the press from a political and ideological angle. This is to commend and promote those aspects that are good and to draw on experience and address irregularities. This is a matter of principle, but I know that the relations between the party committee echelons and the press in some localities and at certain central-level public organs are not very good. There have been cases where party committee echelons showed no concern for the press, because they have assigned work to the press on a blank-check basis. Whenever there were any irregularities among the press, the party committee echelons concerned could only offer criticism without giving any close and sincere assistance. There have also been cases where party committee echelons interfered too deeply in the work of the press. A number of leading comrades of various branches, sectors, mass organizations, units, and parent organs of various newspapers and radio stations have relaxed their leadership and guidance. On the press' side, there has emerged a tendency to see the press as being independent from party leadership. All the above-mentioned irregularities committed by both sides must be quickly overcome. If there are differing views over the handling of any specific problems, the best way is to listen to and discuss each other's views in the spirit of respect for reason and fact and in a way that is beneficial to the revolution.

In dealing with complex issues, at times we have to wait for realities to provide accurate data on a gradual basis which allows us to arrive at conclusions. Regarding those important issues related to national secrets and security, the press must necessarily comply with the guidance of party committees and state agencies.

The state function is to managerially control the activities of the mass media. I suggest that state agencies from the central down to local levels intensify their control role and not loosen it as they did before. We should act in such a way as to promptly overcome the situation of unlicensed or improperly licensed publications which defeat the purpose and goal of journals, propagate erroneous ideas and viewpoints, and so forth. The whistle of management agencies must be blown at the right moment and at the right place. Good newspapers must be commended while those wrong-doing ones must be criticized and properly dealt with. Only by doing so can we restore order and discipline on the battlefront of information.

Dear comrades, the few suggestions I have just made are for you to reflect upon. The party and state rely on the contingent of press workers. It is hoped that our press will continue to renovate itself in order to promote even more vigorously its positive role in the process of renovating the entire nation. It is certain the traditions of the Vietnamese revolutionary press founded by President Ho Chi Minh will be continually preserved and constantly developed by the present generation of Vietnamese press workers who will remain worthy of the confidence of our party, state, and people.

I wish you all success!

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Ha Bac Province

BK2009112590 Hanoi VNA in English 0717 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 20—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh visited Ha Bac Province, about 50 km north of Hanoi, from September 12-15.

The general secretary visited the Ha Bac Nitrogenous Fertilizer and Chemicals Plant which was built 30 years ago with a capacity of 50,000 [metric] tons per year. He pointed to the necessity to reequip the plant, expand its capacity to help meet the domestic demand for nitrogenous fertilizer which currently has to be imported from abroad.

He visited some localities which have succeeded in combination of agriculture and forestry as a new form of local economic development. According to the provincial statistics, over the past five years, Ha Bac has planted more than 11,000 hectares of forests, increasing the income of the provincial forestry service by five times as compared with 1986.

Nguyen Van Linh called at the Yen The Museum which exhibits memorials to the anti-French uprising headed by the peasant Hero Hoang Hoa Tham during 1892-1913.

He also visited a number of families which provided shelter to leading officials of the Indochinese Communist Party during the period of preparations for the August Revolution in 1945.

Visits Fertilizer Plant

BK2009101390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Sep 90

["First part" of report by station correspondent Tran Trong Truy on the activities of Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, during his 12-15 September visit to Ha Bac Province—portions recorded]

[Summary] During his three-day tour of Ha Bac Province from 12 to 15 September, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh devoted the first day to visiting and working with the Ha Bac combined nitrate and chemical fertilizer enterprise.

"The enterprise, the first and only one that produces nitrate fertilizer in our country at present, was built with the assistance of China, a friendly country, in 1960. It was Comrade Do Muoi who officially cut the ribbon to inaugurate the enterprise."

Comrade Tran Van Thuan, director general of the enterprise, disclosed to the comrade general secretary that the number of workers at the enterprise, which reached more than 4,000 in the past, has now been reduced to 3,200. He also briefed the comrade general secretary on the production capacity of the enterprise and the living conditions of its workers.

"Comrade Nguyen Van Linh listened attentively to and carefully took notes concerning the enterprises' production and business activities. He asked many specific questions, such as: How much profit can the enterprise make from a kilogram of nitrate fertilizer? What is the ratio of losses to profits in production? Does the enterprise publicly inform workers of the results of its criticism and self-criticism drive? How much money, in dollars, does the enterprise need in order to expand production? Do the enterprise's trade and youth unions carry out their activities regularly and what are the results of their activities? Does the enterprise pay attention to promoting ideological education among youths?

"In a cordial manner, the comrade general secretary said: I ask these questions not to quiz you but to help you. He then inspected various workshops in the enterprise production chain."

"Comrade Nguyen Van Linh spent the whole afternoon hearing the views of more than 100 cadres, engineers, workers, personnel, and female cadres of the enterprise.

"Most of the workers of the enterprise talked about their honor and responsibility as producers of materials in support of agricultural production, one of the party's three major economic programs. They also expressed hope that the state would attend to investment in order to expand production and would adopt suitable policies on prices and some problems related to daily life as well as policies toward female cadres and retirees so that workers could have peace of mind in order to engage in production."

After inspecting the production chain and chatting directly with engineers, workers, and personnel of the enterprise, the comrade general secretary said:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] "Dear brother and sister members of the board of directors, dear brother and sister cadres, workers, and personnel of the Ha Bac combined nitrate and chemical enterprise, on behalf of the party Central Committee, I would like to commend all of you who, for the past several decades, have developed and preserved our enterprise through various stages of war and through the unified mechanism of state subsidy, which have caused the enterprise to operate under miserable conditions on many occasions.

"However, with the heroic spirit of the working class, you have fought for the preservation and production of the enterprise, thus enabling it to exist until today. Once again, I would like to commend all of you for this." [applause] [end recording]

On behalf of all the cadres, workers, and personnel, Comrade Tran Van Thuan expressed gratitude to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh for his kind attention and affectionate feeling toward workers of the enterprise. He also promised the comrade general secretary that all cadres and workers of the enterprise would exert greater efforts to overcome difficulties in order to fulfill their duties.

Discusses Agriculture With Officials

BK2209150490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Sep 90

["Last part" of report by station correspondent Tran Trong Truy on activities of Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, during his 12-15 September visit to Ha Bac Province—portions recorded]

[Summary] During his visit to Ha Bac, Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh spent a great deal of time visiting the infrastructure. Ha Bac is a midland province with an area of 4,600 square km and with agricultural land accounting for slightly over 180,000 hectares. The province's annual grain output reportedly increased from 502,000 metric tons in 1986 to 696,000 metric tons in 1989.

After a working session with the Ha Bac provincial party committee, the comrade general secretary visited Lang Giang District where he met Mr. Tong Nhu Ke, member of the Hung Lac cooperative, who told him of the agricultural achievements of his cooperative. The comrade general secretary praised Mr. Ke for his achievements, saying:

[Begin Nguyen Van Linh recording] "I learned from various comrade district party committee members that you, comrade, have been a good model following your retirement from the Armed Forces. You have succeeded in planting crops on leach soil and have carried out animal husbandry profitably. This is a good example which, I hope, will be disseminated among people in the district through the horticulturists association. It will be a welcoming sign if there is dissemination of good examples like this." [end recording]

The comrade general secretary braved a long trip and heavy rain in visiting Yen The District, one of Ha Bac's four distant mountain districts. At Tan Thiep village he visited the house of Mr. Truong Xuan Tung, 71, member of the Tay ethnic minority group, where he conversed with Mr. Truong Xuan Tung and other villagers.

[Begin recording] [Nguyen Van Linh] "How is the life of your family?"
[Truong Xuan Tung] We have become prosperous since we joined the cooperative. Everyone now has a brick house; no more thatched houses.

[Nguyen Van Linh] "Do you have enough food to eat?"
[Truong Xuan Tung] Yes.

[Nguyen Van Linh] "Are all your children going to school?"
[Truong Xuan Tung] Yes.

[Nguyen Van Linh] "How are the lives of the local compatriots as compared with life under the old regime?"
[Truong Xuan Tung] Much better.

[Nguyen Van Linh] "Do you have enough medicine for when you are sick?"
[Truong Xuan Tung] If we are sick we will be taken care of by the hospital.

[Nguyen Van Linh] "Do you, your family, and other local ethnic compatriots have any aspirations which you want brought to the attention of the party and state?"
[Unidentified villager] We believe that to have food to eat we must work. [sentence as heard]

[Nguyen Van Linh] "Now you have everything, brick houses and sufficient food and clothes. Is electricity now the only thing you are waiting for? To achieve this aim, the state must work together with the people. We must make contributions. We must make our monetary contributions if we want to have electric poles and wires installed in order to channel the electricity here. Who will do this? We will do this. The people will do this, am I right? If we do not spend money building electric poles, wires, and bulbs, how can we get the electricity? Led by the local party committee, you, comrades, can definitely achieve this aim." [end recording]

Afterward, the comrade general secretary paid homage to and laid wreaths at the memorial of Comrade Nguyen Van Cu and other memorials in Yen The.

During his tour of Ha Bac, the comrade general secretary also visited Dinh Bang village of Kim Son District and the Tan Tien weaving enterprise. At Dinh Bang village, he had an emotional meeting with Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dong, 81, who is known for having provided shelter to Comrade Truong Chinh and Le Quang Dao during the early days of the revolution.

[Begin recording] [Nguyen Thi Dong] Brother Truong Chinh said that Van Phuc is a steel blockhouse. The more I listen to world news, the sadder I feel. [laughing]

[Nguyen Van Linh] "Regardless of the world situation, the revolutionary path will certainly make headway."

[Nguyen Thi Dong] But you should stay healthy.

[Nguyen Van Linh] "I was briefed on the situation in Tien Son and the situation in your village. I was also guided by the provincial party committee secretary to visit various districts where I met a number of compatriots. I found that the situation is very good. In the old days, people joined the revolution with the belief that it would definitely be successful. They did not know if they themselves or their children, grandchildren, or even great grandchildren would see the success of the revolution. In our case, we have witnessed the success of the revolution, the liberation of the nation, and the advance toward socialist construction." [end recording]

While bidding farewell to over 1,000 party cadres and members and retirees in the province, the comrade general secretary urged:

[Begin recording] "Besides rice, you, comrades, should pay attention to subsidiary food crops and industrial crops, especially the processing of farm produce for export with higher results. Goods must be brought to the hands of consumers without going through middlemen. You, comrades, should pay attention to the task regarding distribution and circulation. You should reorganize trade activities, fight tax collection shortfalls, and aid in preventing overspending of the budget. Only through tax collection can we improve production and the people's lives. Mass motivtion and party building must be carried out in a truly satisfactory fashion. We must strive to make Ha Bac a prosperous and comprehensively steadfast midland province." [end recording]

On behalf of the two million compatriots of various ethnic minority groups in the province, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Quat, secretary of the provincial party committee, pledged that he would remember this advice and would try to carry out all party resolutions in an increasingly better fashion.

Tropical Storm Hits Central Coastal Provinces

BK2009152090 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 20 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 20—Tropical storm hit the central coastal provinces of Quang Nam-Da Nang, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Tri and Quang Binh on Sept, 18 and 19 packing winds of up to 100km per hour.

On Sept. 19, rainfall recorded in Thua Thien-Hue varied from 300 to 400 mm in different localities, while the Huong (perfume) River swelled to 5.15 metres endangering its embankment on both sides.

In the same province, many houses in Phu Loc District were pulled down or unroofed, many big trees uprooted and a bridge damaged. In the provincial city of Hue, a number of streets were submerged, causing traffic jam, one person was reported drowned and 15 others injured. About one thousand hectares of summer-autumn rice and many villages in Huong Dien District were submerged.

In Quang Tri Province, torrential rains accompanying the storm caused floods in many rivers, water logging in many low-lying areas and traffic jam in a number of portions of highways No 1 and No. 9.

In Quang Nam-Da Nang Province, rainfall was recorded on Tuesday at 150 mm and wind velocity at 117 km per hour. Six people were reported dead and 150 houses were heavily damaged, some of them completely destroyed, and about 3,000 ha of rice were submerged.

The administration of the storm-stricken provinces have concentrated efforts on saving the victims and their property.

'Serious Flooding' in Quang Tri

BK2409122790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Summary] Tropical storm No. 6 landed in the coastal area of Quang Tri Province and caused serious flooding to many localities.

"Heavy flash floods and strong winds have completely submerged 3,960 hectares of the eighth month rice, 86,789 hectares of the 10th month rice, and thousands of hectares of subsidiary food crops and long-term industrial crops." Many portions of Highways 1A, 14, and 9 and a number of irrigation projects have been seriously damaged. In addition, three shrimp rearing farms and many educational, public health, forestry, marine products, postal, electricity-generating, food supply, and trading facilities have sustained heavy losses.

"According to initial reports, three people were killed and two others missing in Trieu Phong District."

"Quang Tri Province is concentrating efforts on helping people in the hard-hit areas promptly normalize their lives. The grain supply and trading sectors have quickly delivered seven tons of rice and thousands of mosquito nets, blankets, and ready-made clothes for distribution to the people. The public healthcare service has also helped local residents with two containers of medicine."

Condolences Sent to Victims

BK2109103790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers has sent condolence messages to the people in Quang Nam-Danang, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Binh, and Quang Tri Provinces. The message says:

As typhoon No. 6 has inflicted losses in your localities, I would like to convey the sympathies of the Party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers to the people, combatants, and cadres in the areas hit by the natural disasters.

I request that the provincial people's committees and ministries concerned urgently inspect and study the losses, concentrate on providing guidance to overcome the typhoon aftermath, and stabilize production and people's livelihood.

Australia

Party Backs Telecommunications Privatisation

BK2409065290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Canberra, Sept 24 (AFP)—Private enterprise will be invited by the Australian Government to compete with the state-run telecommunications network following an historic vote Monday to abandon the monopolies held by Telecom and OTC [Overseas Telecommunications Commission] Limited. The decision took the Australian Labor Party a step closer to abandoning its most sacred and enduring principle—the concept of public ownership enshrined in policy since the early 1920s.

After four hours of emotional debate, delegates to a special national conference here voted 58-43 to support government plans to expose the telecommunications networks to private competition. The domestic network, Telecom and the international network OTC Limited will be merged to form a giant, publicly owned facility which has been dubbed Megacom. A third public network, the satellite facility known as Aussat, will be sold to form the basis of a private company or consortium, probably with substantial overseas investment to compete face-to-face with the public facility.

Debate was to continue on a government proposal to sell 49 per cent of international carrier Qantas and all of Australian Airlines. Delegates from all three party factions, including the left which opposes privatisation, were predicting a similar vote in favour of the sell-off. However, the vote was so close in the telecommunications debate that Labor leaders fear continuing disunity in the party which they say could be seriously damaging to the government.

The major telecommunications union has vowed to fight the decision all the way to the next election. Its Queensland president, Ian Mclean, who is vice-president of the Labor Party, predicted the government would "lose office unless it changed its ways before the next election."

The conference vote nevertheless represents a win for Prime Minister Bob Hawke and senior economic ministers who led the party into reversal of the anti-privatisation philosophy still strongly evident on the conference floor Monday. It also completed the process started for Labor with treasurer Paul Keating's successful fight to partially privatise the Commonwealth Bank a month ago.

The government was accused by leftwing conference delegates Monday of selling out Labor principles.

Mr. Mclean told the conference that the government's plan would clear the way for an American or Japanese company to come in and take the cream of business from Telecom and OTC. He said "We are in a position where either the government rolls the party—and the government gets a kick out of that—or the party rolls the government and nobody gets a kick out of that."

He proposed an amendment urging preservation of the telecommunications monopoly and continuing opposition to privatisation, urging delegates to defeat the government. "They cannot expect the loyalty of the Labor Party if they are continuing to follow... this unworthy and unsustainable venture."

Another leftwing delegate, Sue Robinson, accused the government of failing to consult its rank and file and said it was opposed by every section of the Labor Party. "We see a situation where the leadership are alienated from their rank and file", she said.

She described the issue as an idealogical debate dressed up under the cloak of micro-economic reform. "We have a government with a cavalier attitude to its policy platform. We have a government today which is defying the party to uphold the platform."

But in a spirited defense of the government position, Mr. Hawke said the simple fact of life was that all social democratic and socialist governments were abandoning outdated dogma. "With the possible exception of Albania and Cuba that outdated dogma has been progressively discarded", he said.

Mr. Hawke said the proposal formulated by Telecommunications Minister Kim Beazley and accepted by the government would maintain a fully publicly owned telecommunications facility. He told the 101 delegates they could ensure a publicly owned facility with private competition or give their conservative opponents a gold plated guarantee. They could totally privatise the telecommunications network after the next election, which they would win.

Minister Reaffirms Stance on Illegal Immigrants

BK2109080090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Sep 90

[Text] Australia's immigration minister, Mr. Gerry Hand, has reaffirmed the government's tough stance against illegal immigrants. Mr. Hand, told a Sydney conference on Pacific islander migration, that the government was moving against Australia's 90,000 illegal immigrants, whom he described as queue jumpers. The immigration minister ruled out a guest worker scheme for Pacific islanders.

He said the government also had no intention of relaxing its regional immigration program. Mr. Hand said illegal immigration was very serious and the government was determined to bring it under control. He said that to be a success, Australia's immigration program had to be credible. He asked delegates to help stop the illegal drift from the Pacific.

Fiji's Professor (Aisala Olabuvu) from the University of the South Pacific said it was unfortunate that just as

Pacific islanders were feeling more confident about moving further afield to develop themselves, entry was being restricted. Professor (Olabuvu) also hit out at skill requirements for immigration, which he said were attracting away the qualified and skilled people the island nations needed for their development.

New Zealand

Poll Shows Opposition With 19 Percent Lead

BK2009134590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 20 Sep 90

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, Sept 20 (AFP)—New Zealand's election process officially began Thursday, and the ruling Labour Party still looks set to be taken to the cleaners despite two spectacular gambles.

The ruling party's predicted disaster in the October 27 polls is producing attack and counter-attack between Labour and the opposition National Party.

The election process officially got under way Thursday with the clerk of the writs dispatching 97 writs to each of the electorates authorising returning officers to take steps to conduct an election.

Earlier this week the NEW ZEALAND PRESS ASSOCIATION (NZPA) reported National would win if it takes 10 marginal seats currently held by Labour. Assuming the opposition keeps its 40 seats, another 10 would give the party 50 out of 97. "Taking 10, even assuming the poll gap closes considerably ... (a National victory) looks almost a certainty without something just short of a political miracle for Labour," NZPA concluded.

Opinion polls this week showed National with a 19 per cent lead. While that is not as great as the nearly 30 per cent lead earlier this year, Labour's first gamble of appointing Mike Moore as prime minister on September 4 to replace Geoffrey Palmer is not paying off in the polls.

The ruling party's next toss of the dice came when Mr. Moore announced on September 17 that he had reached a wage accord with trade unions which would guarantee a fall in interest rates. He vowed he would avoid a projected budget deficit of 2.2 billion New Zealand dollars (1.3 billion U.S.). As the whole package had been thought up the previous weekend specifics were lacking—and still are.

The accord, a striking contrast to six years of laissez-faire economics, is not all that Mr. Moore made it out to be. Government figures published here Thursday showed 80 per cent of full-time wage and salary earners were now worse off in real terms than when Labour came to power six years ago. Middle income earners were two per cent worse off in real terms, and low income workers four to five per cent worse off. The top 20 per cent of earners are 8.3 per cent better off.

On Friday, the Combined Trade Unions (CTU) is to meet to ratify the wages accord. The premise of the pact is that workers should accept wage hikes of no more than two per cent, a real cut in wages given an inflation rate of five per cent.

The quid pro quo was supposed to be a drop in interest rates and CTU President Ken Douglas said Monday he expected interest rates to fall two per cent—he later amended this to 0.3 per cent —by Friday. Ninety-day bills traded Monday at 14.50 per cent and stood Thursday afternoon at 14.53 per cent.

One CTU affiliate, the Police Association representing police officers, said Thursday it was unwilling to commit itself to a two per cent wage rise. Mr. Moore has already conceded that projected growth of 2.4 per cent next year is more likely to be closer to one per cent.

The opposition has been equally pessimistic. Opposition finance spokeswoman Ruth Richardson said Thursday that if National takes over a deficit crisis all promises were on hold, except for more police and a cut in a surtax on superannuation. "We are dealing with a fiscal crisis," she said. "We are not going to add to it."

Opposition leader Jim Bolger also toyed this week with a dangerous issue—New Zealand membership in the Australia, New Zealand and United States (ANZUS) treaty. He said earlier this year that National endorsed Labour's nuclear-free policies. Mr. Bolger said he wanted talks with Washington on a new pact. Mr. Moore claimed that New Zealander's would be "filled with horror" at Mr. Bolger's statement.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Bolger met in the first of a series of election debates Wednesday night with both sides claiming victory. Media reports suggested however that there was little substance in the debate.

"Voters need not despair totally ... There are only 37 days to go," the Wellington EVENING POST said. Added THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD: "Mercifully, the season has only five and a bit more weeks to run.... Expect noise, heat, perhaps a promise but not much light."

Papua New Guinea

Namaliu Plans To 'Reassure' Investors in U.S.

BK2209062390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0521 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Sydney, Sept 22 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said here Saturday he would reassure investors during his U.S. visit that the Bougainville crisis was an aberration in an otherwise sound investment climate. Mr. Namaliu told reporters during a stopover on his way to the United States that the bloody secessionist war on Bougainville was not a true reflection of the political situation in his country.

He would inform U.S. investors of new guidelines to safeguard foreign investment and a new consultation process designed to avoid another Bougainville crisis, he said.

Landowners seeking compensation from the giant copper mine on Bougainville triggered off a 16-month war that killed more than 80 people before a March ceasefire.

Mr. Namaliu said he would also be outlining new measures to enhance law and order in his country. "We want to address them on the measures we're taking with law and order ... and reforms in relation to investment generally," he said.

During his tour Mr. Namaliu will address the United Nations General Assembly and a New York investment seminar on Australia and Papua New Guinea. He will also meet chief executives of companies which have interests in Papua New Guinea.

Meanwhile Australian Associated Press (AAP) reported that the Bougainville rebels have agreed to a second round of peace talks with Port Moresby to be held on neutral ground. AAP cited reports that claimed the Bougainville revolutionary Army (BRA) suggested talks be held either in the Solomons Islands or in Vanuatu on September 24. During initial peace talks in July and August, Bougainville secessionists and Port Moresby signed an accord under which the government agreed to lift the blockade on goods and services it imposed after the BRA declared independence following the ceasefire.

Government Troops Reportedly Retake Buka Island

BK2409084090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0814 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Sydney, Sept 24 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea's Acting Prime Minister Ted Diro said Monday that government troops have regained control of Buka Island, off Bougainville, after a battle with rebels, AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS (AAP) reported. Mr. Diro said that two Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) militants were killed and four injured in a gunfight on Friday while government troops were unscathed, AAP said.

About 50 police riot squad officers and an equal number of defence force troops now controlled Buka, off the northern tip of Bougainville, he said.

Copper-rich Bougainville was the scene of a 16-month secessionist war which killed more than 80 people before a March ceasefire.

Mr. Diro said that the government had also gained control of the Inus Plantation, one of the major copra and cocoa plantations on Bougainville. The plantation is located on Bougainville's east coast about 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of the main town of Kieta.

The government was hopeful that the gunfight would not jeopardise peace talks with Bougainville secessionists, which were to be held by the end of the month, he said.

During the initial peace talks, Bougainville secessionists and Port Moresby signed an accord under which the government agreed to lift the blockade on goods and services it imposed after the BRA declared independence following the ceasefire.

Mr. Diro said the BRA opened fire on the ships carrying military and police officers and 55 civilian personnel, as well as vital fuel and medical supplies. "We were fired on first and we retaliated," he said.

The mission to restore goods and services to Buka followed a failed attempt to do so two weeks ago. Port Moresby maintained its forces returned to Buka after it received a petition last week by about 125 Buka villagers who claimed they were being intimidated by the BRA.

Mr. Diro is standing in for Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu who is visiting the United States.

Bishops' Call for Aid to Bougainville Rejected

BK2209094190 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] Papua New Guinea's justice minister, Mr. Bernard Narakobi, has rejected a call by Roman Catholic bishops to use an international agency, such as the Red Cross, to restore goods and services to Bougainville.

The 10 bishops meeting in Rabaul say people are dying because of the shortage of medical supplies. The government's attempt to restore services two weeks ago failed, partly because the presence of troops and police to supervise the operation angered the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA]. The bishops called for the BRA to agree to a neutral body, such as the Red Cross, to be allowed to send in essential medicines. However, Mr. Narakobi said the Bougainville crisis was an internal matter for Papua New Guinea alone to resolve.